

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3447.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1893.

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"And then the processions, not then forbidden by a church-baiting Republican Government; what brave shows were these, and how the youth, in his artistic temperament, must have enjoyed the sight; the girls in white, strewing flowers, the red-robed choir-boys, the swinging censers, the high-borne crucifix, the priests in brave array, the gorgeous dais, and closing in the procession the military band!"

It is difficult to say whether taste or grammar is more at fault in this remarkable sentence. Then Mr. Sherard drags in horrible neologisms like "progressist," French words and phrases are introduced at every moment ("the following profession *de foi*," for example), and constructions occur like "those *whom* you think may support you"; together with a general commonness and cheapness of style, relieved by only one or two good passages in the course of the whole book. When Mr. Sherard ventures on a criticism (and he does so very rarely), a sense of values seems to be as much lacking as a sense of style. "Germinal" is a remarkable novel, but is this quite the time in which to speak of it?—"Germinal" is a fictional epic, which some day, perhaps, when the world shall have rid itself of the last taint of romanticism, will be taught to children as is to-day the 'Iliad' or the 'Odyssey.'" Yet, notwithstanding all these defects, which deprive Mr. Sherard's book of any sort of literary value, this life of Zola has the merit, as we said at the outset, of being an exceedingly good piece

of journalism. It belongs to the newest kind of journalism—new, at all events, in England; it is lively, bustling, personal, impertinent if need be, but it tells the reader just what he wants to know, and in an amusing way. Mr. Sherard has interviewed M. Zola, and he has interviewed M. Zola's friends; he has made adroit use of the information contained in M. Paul Alexis's 'Notes d'un Ami'; he has found out all about the circumstances under which "Les Rougon-Macquart" were written, the number of copies of them that were sold, the amount of money they earned, the attitude of the public towards book after book; and, best of all, he has kept before him, and thus brought before the reader, a definite conception of the character of M. Zola, so that the narrative, with all its mass of facts, becomes a piece of psychology, the portrait of a man.

And, whatever view may be taken of M. Zola's work as literature, there is no doubt that the life of M. Zola is a model lesson, and might profitably be told in one of Dr. Smiles's edifying biographies. It may even be brought as a reproach against the writer of these novels, horrifying to so many people, that he is too good a *bourgeois*, too much an incarnation of the respectable virtues, to be a man of genius. If the finest art comes out of the intensest living, then M. Zola has never had even a chance of doing the greatest work. It is his merit and his misfortune to have lived entirely in and for his books, with a heroic devotion to his ideal of literary duty which would merit every praise if we had to consider simply the moral side of the question. This is how M. Zola works, day by day:—

"His daily task, as far as his novel-writing is concerned, has been four pages of print of the Charpentier form of volume daily, and he has never done more nor less, laying down the pen the moment that this amount has been produced, no matter whether he may be in the midst of a sentence. His plan is so clear in his head that he can resume his work on the following morning without having to read over anything of what precedes. He is a slow writer, and seems to have difficulty in the mere mechanical operation of penmanship. Four pages, not a line more nor less, day after day without interruption for years and years, line upon line, line upon line, this has been the secret of a literary production which has not its equal among living writers."

How commendable! is one's instinctive comment; but can great literature be written like that? Let us go further, and see how M. Zola prepares himself for one of his novels, how he "gets up" his subject. We again quote Mr. Sherard:—

"Immense preparation had been necessary for the 'Faute de l'Abbé Mouret.' Mountains of note-books were heaped up on his table, and for months Zola was plunged in the study of religious works. All the mystical part of the book, and notably the passages having reference to the cultus of Mary, was taken from the works of the Spanish Jesuits. The 'Imitation of Jesus Christ' was largely drawn upon, many passages being copied almost word for word into the novel—much as in 'Clarissa Harlowe,' that other great realist, Richardson, copied whole passages from the Psalms. The description of life in a grand seminary was given him by a priest who had been dismissed from ecclesiastical service. The little church of Sainte Marie des Batignolles was regularly visited."

Again, how commendable, but, surely, how futile! Can one conceive of a more hopeless, a more ridiculous task, than that of setting to work on a novel of ecclesiastical life as if one were "cramming" for an examination in religious knowledge? M. Zola apparently imagines that he can master mysticism in a fortnight, as he masters the police regulations of Les Halles. It must be admitted that he does wonders with his second-hand information, alike in regard to mysticism and Les Halles. But he succeeds only to a certain point, and that point is on the nearer side of what is really meant by success. He constructs marvellous automata, but the breath of life is not in them. And, if we may judge by a fragment from a letter, written in 1881, which seems to us the most significant document in Mr. Sherard's book, M. Zola himself is conscious of the fact, though he deliberately resolves to ignore it. The letter is written while he is at work on 'Pot-Bouille':—

"I continue to work in a good state of mental equilibrium. My novel is certainly only a task requiring precision and clearness. No *bravura*, not the least lyrical treat. It does not give me any warm satisfactions, but it amuses me like a piece of mechanism with a thousand wheels, of which it is my duty to regulate the movement with the most minute care. I ask myself this question: Is it good policy, when one feels that one has passion in one, to check it, or even to bridle it? If one of my books is destined to become immortal, it will, I am sure, be the most passionate one. Well, well!—one must change one's tune, and try one's hand at all things. All this is mere self-examination, for, I repeat, I am very well satisfied with 'Pot-Bouille,' which I call my 'Sentimental Education.'"

Is not this a significant confession? Is it not really a recognition that the Naturalistic method is, after all, not the final word of the art of fiction—at all events, the method which he himself has followed, partly of necessity, partly by design? "Est-elle en marbre ou non, la Vénus de Milo?" said the Parnassians, priding themselves on their muse with her "peplum bien sculpté." M. Zola will describe to you the exact shape and the exact smell of the rags of his Naturalistic muse, the goddess of the rag-shop; but has she, under the tatters, really a human heart? In the whole of M. Zola's works, amid all his exact and impressive descriptions of misery, all his annals of the poor, we know only one episode which brings tears to the eyes, the episode of the child-martyr Lalie in 'L'Assommoir.' "A piece of mechanism with a thousand wheels,"—that is indeed the image of this immense and wonderful study of human life, evolved out of the brain of a solitary student, who knows life only by the report of his documents and his friends.

Literary Recollections and Sketches. By Francis Espinasse. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

MORE than enough has already been written about Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle; yet Mr. Espinasse's addition, furnished by more than half of the volume before us, is not without value. There is not much acidity in his book, but its alkaline quality is marked, and it should be useful as a solvent in the muddy mass of scandal and tittle-tattle, exaggerations and contradictions, by which various busy-

bodies have done so much to bring discredit on a famous couple, whose idiosyncrasies were sufficiently in evidence while they were alive, and whose services to the world—the one as a great thinker and writer, the other as his worthy helpmeet—deserve honourable remembrance and no pettifying disparagement. Mr. Espinasse's contribution to the controversy should help to clear it of many noxious vapours, and yield as a precipitate sound and wholesome impressions as to the relations of this much-maligned and much-belauded husband and wife with one another and with the public.

Mr. Espinasse, who combines a fair amount of autobiography with his gossip concerning other people, had been a Carlyle worshipper before he became an assistant in the British Museum some fifty years ago, and, when Carlyle was preparing his 'Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell,' was able to render him considerable service by hunting up references, deciphering and copying manuscripts, and so forth. Thus was formed, with dignity on both sides, "the sort of intimacy that might under favourable auspices arise between an obscure, insignificant youth and a man of great literary distinction, whose presence was welcomed in some of the highest circles of English society." Often working for Carlyle in Bloomsbury by daylight, Mr. Espinasse often visited him at Chelsea in the evenings, and their intercourse continued long after the special occasion for it had ceased. Mr. Espinasse saw his host and hostess "at home"; they showed themselves to him without reserve and without affectation:—

"I can see him now, in an old brown dressing-gown, seated on a footstool on the hearth-rug, close to the fireplace in the little parlour, sending most deftly up the chimney whiffs from a long clay pipe, so that the room might not be odorous of tobacco-smoke. I can hear him between the whiffs, which served as commas and colons (there was never a full stop), pouring forth in the strongest possible of Scotch accents, an oral Latter-Day Pamphlet, contrasting Cromwell and his Puritans with contemporary English politicians and the multitudes whom they were leading by the nose to the abyss. I see Mrs. Carlyle, with head bent and one hand covering her face, listening in silence. She had heard it all so often before, poor lady, and knew how little would come of it. I can hear her, when Carlyle's denunciations of the present became terribly fierce, make the considerate appeal, 'Don't be angry with Mr. Espinasse; he is not to blame,' or, before the pipe had been substituted for the tea-cup, 'My dear, your tea is getting quite cold; that is the way with reformers.' Then perhaps the wild tempest of words would cease, and the Latter-Day Prophet break out into a hearty laugh at his own vehemence."

All Mr. Espinasse's reminiscences of the Chelsea household are in keeping with that amusing picture. Carlyle was somewhat more absorbed in his work and his schemes for benefiting the world in his own way, and without forgetting his own interests, than the average literary man may be, even if he suffers from indigestion; but in the main he was a good husband; and Mrs. Carlyle was a devoted and grateful wife, notwithstanding the mild martyrdom that she deemed her lot and occasionally resented, and the sharp words, with a flavour of spite

in them, by which she gave vent to her high spirits and her ready wit.

Mr. Espinasse corrects, by implication much more than by open contradiction, much that Mr. Froude has said about the Carlyles, and he especially blames Mr. Froude for excluding from his bulky volumes nearly all the evidence telling against his own view. A glaring instance is furnished by the Forster correspondence, now in the South Kensington Museum:—

"The Carlyliana of the collection include a long series of letters written to Forster by Carlyle, covering a period of some forty years, from the beginning of their acquaintance to the end, only with Forster's death, of what became their friendship. With the exception of his letters to members of his own family there are none so interesting and instructive as these of Carlyle to Forster, and a well-edited selection from them would be an extremely valuable contribution to Carlyle's biography. This being the case, it is singular that Mr. Froude should have made no use of them in his four volumes on Carlyle. Such neglect is the more singular inasmuch as Carlyle's letters to Forster abound with interesting matter respecting some of those later years of Carlyle's life, Mr. Froude's account of which is extremely meagre, partly, but not wholly, because when compelled to cease writing with his own hand Carlyle no longer, of course, confided as previously his thoughts and feelings to his journal. When age and infirmity prevented Carlyle from wielding a pen he employed an amanuensis, and, as it happens, such letters to Forster are ampler and more interesting than those which were written by his own hand. This is easily accounted for. As relatives and old friends sank one after another into the grave Carlyle clung more and more to Forster, his ally of forty years, who remained indefatigable in his attentions, and who, in his frequent, kindly, and thoughtful hospitality to the veteran, was aided by his 'dear little wife,' as Carlyle, in his letters, fondly calls Mrs. Forster."

About John Forster, Emerson, Miss Jewsbury, Leigh Hunt, and many others, Mr. Espinasse has much to say, not only as Carlyle's friends and acquaintances, but also as friends and acquaintances of his own. There are chapters, too, about George Henry Lewes, George Eliot, James Hannay, and others with whom, apart from the Carlyles, he had much to do in the course of his busy life as a journalist. The following anecdote of that wayward but gifted man, the author of 'The Abode of Snow,' is amusing:—

"When his fortunes were at their nadir, he applied for the editorship of an obscure weekly newspaper in a small town in the extreme south of Scotland. It belonged to an elderly and devout Presbyterian spinster, who asked him for a preliminary interview. Andrew having presented himself, the lady began by putting the leading question, 'And what, Maister Wilson, may your relegion be?' With the greatest gravity, Andrew replied forthwith, 'Madam, I am a—Buddhist!' The collapse of his candidature was instantaneous."

These miscellaneous "recollections," however, do not call for detailed notice. The book is chiefly important for the light it throws on Carlyle's career and character. The last chapter discusses at length the nature and extent of Disraeli's connexion with the short-lived and now forgotten daily paper the *Representative*, based on some private notes given to him by the Conservative leader. It is incidentally mentioned in this chapter, as "a fact not generally known."

that Mr. Gladstone was once, like Disraeli, a member of Lincoln's Inn, the name of the former being entered on the records of the Honourable Society on November 18th, 1827, and that of the latter on November 11th, 1824, and both retiring on November 25th, 1831.

The History of South Australia from its Foundation to the Year of its Jubilee. By Edwin Hodder. (Sampson Low & Co.) *Early History of New Zealand.* From Earliest Times to 1840 by R. A. A. Sherwin; from 1840 to 1845 by J. H. Wallace. (Truelove & Hanson.)

MR. HODDER, the author of the life of George Fife Angas, which we noticed two years ago, has had placed at his disposal the papers of that remarkable man, one of the chief founders of South Australia. In the not very frequent allusions to him in the new volume, care is taken to point out that he was seldom, if ever, mistaken in his views—a conclusion not always arrived at by his contemporaries. His earnest wish was that a history of the colony should be compiled, and Mr. Hodder has now fulfilled it. He has produced rather a dry narrative. As a record of events, and as a book for reference, it will be useful, but it is of interest only to those who participated in the work of building up South Australia.

The "Chronological Summary" which is appended furnishes at a glance the dates of the incidents which are treated of at length in the preceding pages; they prove that the enterprise of the settlers has been crowned by substantial success, although, when compared with that of other Australian colonies, it has not been remarkable. The account of the rapid changes of cabinets is not calculated to excite enthusiasm; indeed, Mr. Hodder feels there is only too much truth in an article, which he gives in the appendix, from the *Australasian*, a Melbourne newspaper, thus summing the matter up:—

"There is some subtle and undetected quality in the political atmosphere of South Australia which forbids its Government to attain old age—they all die young. Few attain the knickerbocker stage: none attain manhood; most of them perish before they are weaned. In the thirty-six years of its constitutional history South Australia has had forty-one cabinets, a long procession of phantom-like governments that have flitted across the political stage and vanished unwept into mere darkness. Six South Australian cabinets stand recorded in history as having been in existence for less than three weeks each! One lasted for slightly more than a fortnight; another ended its tender life in less than a fortnight; yet another managed to maintain a gasping and dubious existence for exactly nine days and then expired!.....It would be difficult to discover a South Australian member of Parliament who has not been in office, or reasonably expects to be there some day. They are all officers in fact and no privates.....It is easy after all to discern the cause of the political levity which so painfully afflicts the public life of South Australia. One cause is common to all the colonies. There is, with us, no deep gulf parting party from party and class from class. We have in fact no party politics in the English sense among us.....sides are easily changed when the dividing lines are faint."

There is only too much truth in this, to which we may add that these personal conflicts failed to develope any striking per-

sonalities, as was the case in the adjacent colonies.

Unlike most Australian writers, Mr. Hodder is not disposed to find fault, and he praises all the governors except Major Robe, whom he calls a "Tory of Tories," and therefore considers unsuited to the "Paradise of Dissenters," as he terms South Australia.

In these days of financial panic it may be useful to print his summary of the public resources:—

"Of the say 20,000,000*l.* which have been borrowed 14,500,000*l.* have been spent on railways and telegraphs and other directly remunerative public works, which yielded for the year 1891 over working expenses 704,000*l.*, thus paying the full interest of 4 per cent. upon 17,000,575*l.* of the bonded debt, leaving interest on only 2,300,325*l.* to be met out of the general revenue."

We must demur to the writer's contention that the unsold 250,000,000 acres are an asset for creditors. If they were hypothecated for that purpose, his reasoning would be correct; as it is, the only way in which their sale would benefit the public creditors would be indirectly, owing to the additional revenue derived from the increased population. If for a few years no further loans are raised the present alarm will subside, but without them it is difficult to see how ambitious aspirations with regard to the "Northern Territory" and the "Transcontinental Railway" can be gratified.

Although Mr. Sherwin professes to have written a history of New Zealand from the earliest times, and abundant materials and authentic information on the subject exist, he gives no account of the origin of the Maori race. The whole question is replete with interest for the ethnologist, and Mr. Sherwin might well have considered it.

The earlier pages of his narrative are not the most interesting. He has nothing new to add to the account of Cook's discovery, and it must be admitted that stories of massacres of ships' crews become rather monotonous reading. Unlike most colonial writers, Mr. Sherwin seems to entertain no prejudices against the natives or the missionaries, of whose aid in the work of civilization he speaks in high terms; and throughout he writes in a spirit of moderation and candour, making full allowance for the great difficulties encountered by the first governors, difficulties caused not only by the lawless conduct of Europeans, but by the opposition of the New Zealand Company, which possessed powerful political influence in London, generally used in antagonism to the views prevalent in Downing Street and Auckland. None of the predecessors of Sir George Grey was at all able to cope with the embarrassments, political and financial, which they experienced.

This handsomely illustrated volume should not be neglected by any of our readers who wish to form a colonial library. The views of Auckland, Wellington, and other now populous cities, as they were fifty years ago, possess much interest, which must increase with the lapse of time. An alphabetical list of above 3,000 names of the founders of the colony, of the ships in which they arrived, and of the localities in which they settled is added—a record which in future centuries may equal the interest

now felt in the fictitious Roll of Battle Abbey, or even in Domesday.

A History of Northumberland. Issued under the Direction of the Northumberland County History Committee. Vol. I. By Edward Bateson, B.A. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Reid, Sons & Co.)

It is many a long year since we had the gratification of looking upon such a new county history as this. With affectation of knowledge without research, with oft-used materials carelessly gathered together and badly arranged, with Latinity which would have broken Priscian's head, antiquaries are, unfortunately, only too familiar. But here they have a change, as it were, from winter to spring, and the new 'History of Northumberland' emerges from the press with a freshness and a fulness which are as novel as they are satisfactory. We congratulate the inhabitants of the county on the appearance of a work in which full justice is done to so interesting a theme; and if the conclusion corresponds to the beginning, Northumbria has once more maintained her claim to the hegemony in historical research which, so far back as the days of Bede and Alcuin, undoubtedly belonged to her.

The most northern part of Northumberland, known as Northhamshire and Islandshire, has already found a chronicler in the late Dr. Raine, who took it up as a portion of the county of Durham, which it then was. A considerable portion of the rest of the county was described by the Rev. John Hodgson. It has long been the desire of the gentlemen of Northumberland to complete what that earnest and amiable writer so laboriously essayed, and now there is a real hope that their wishes may be realized. Mr. Bateson, who attempts the work, possesses a very just idea of what is expected from him, and writes with taste and judgment. His industry is surprising. He has begun and brought successfully through the press within the compass of two years a quarto extending to nearly five hundred pages.

Almost the whole of this volume is devoted to one single parish; but then it is that of Bamburgh. What memories and associations that name recalls! The castle, towering aloft on its basaltic rock, has well been called the glory of Northumberland. Alnwick and the New Castle upon Tyne are things of yesterday compared with it. It is the Dingwary of Celtic story, a name which King Ethelfrith changed to Bebbanburh in honour of his queen. It was to the sheltering protection of Bamburgh that the monastery of Lindisfarne owed its existence. The lights in that lonely house of God would be visible on the castle wall, whilst nearer at hand, and straight across the sea, lay the little flock of islands, known generically under the name of Farne, on one of which Bishop Cuthbert watched and died. It was in Bamburgh that Oswald with the Fair Hand had his chief home. Here his protégé and friend, Aidan, built a church of wood, at the west end of which he had a little hut or tenement in which he lived, and there he died with his head resting against the wall of the church which he loved so well. Whether Bamburgh was the

royal city to which Cuthbert bade Queen Ermenburga hasten for protection from Carlisle, when the life of her husband Egfrith was in peril, is not so certain. Some think that York is intended, the capital of Deira, which was also under Egfrith's rule, and that it is more likely that the queen would be sent thither than be exposed to the possible danger of meeting victorious invaders from the North by crossing the whole of the modern county of Northumberland to reach Bamburgh. That place was without doubt the fortress and capital of Bernicia. Of its subsequent fortunes through many a long century Mr. Bateson unfolds the story. Often besieged, but only once or twice captured, it was a sanctuary against Scots and traitors. In more modern times it has become famous for gentler, but more enduring victories. Through the beneficence of Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, it has been made the working centre for a great philanthropic effort for the spread of civilization and religion, and for the assistance of the needy, whether on land or sea.

The most conspicuous of the families mentioned in this volume is that of Forster of Bamburgh, and the greatest personage in it—nay, in the whole county in his day—was Sir John Forster, one of the Wardens of the Marches. Sir John was a man of energy and capacity, "hail and het as fire," as the ballad tells us, against the Scots, of whom he was the dread and terror. In many respects he was, perhaps, the best man for the work that he had to do; but he was rough, coarse, and thoroughly unscrupulous, getting into his hands everything that he could, and plundering the Crown of which he believed himself to be one of the props and mainstays. Look at his will, and you will see that he was one of the most vigorous believers in the doctrine of assurance; look at his pedigree, and you will find it marred by ragged lines of illegitimate children. His funeral feast must have been famous even in Northumberland. The Forsters, who were numerous enough to eat it up by themselves, would be there in full force.

Sir John was unfortunate in his descendants, in whom, as might be expected, there was much wild blood. He had barely been in his grave thirty years when the three generations after him had come to an end. And then the family property through carelessness and extravagance was gradually broken up. By the close of the seventeenth century the male line was extinct, and the remnant of the estates was vested in two coheiresses, of whom the famous Dolly Forster was one. When she was only nineteen she captivated Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham; but disparity of age kept them apart. The prelate soon found another bride, who lived with him for nine years, and then his heart reverted to his first love, who, as she was advancing in age herself, was obdurate no longer. The story is told in Durham how she looked with horror on the crossed bones which adorned the hatchment of her predecessor. The next time she saw it she found that her complaisant lord had painted a bunch of grapes in the place of the wonted emblems of mortality. My lady was fair of face and a pleasant, good-natured woman, although sometimes a little difficult to please. Her

end was a melancholy one. Through one cause or another her sister's son, Thomas Forster, had been drawn into the rebellion of 1715, and was vain enough to accept the command of the Jacobites in Northumberland, although he had no military knowledge whatever. His failure is a matter of history, and the peril in which he found himself was too much for his aunt. Lady Cowper tells us in her amusing diary that the fright killed her. "She fell into convulsions and died in four days." Tom Forster was caught, but got out of Newgate and made his escape abroad. His body was afterwards brought to Bamburgh, and was buried among his ancestors. His kinsman, Joe Forster of Buston, also wished to join in the rebellion, but his wife took very effectual means to keep him at home. She upset a kettle of boiling water over his knees.

One great feature in this volume is the excellent way in which the descent of the estates is worked out. There might, indeed, have been more biographical details, especially in more recent times, but the most ardent genealogist cannot fail to be satisfied with the number and richness of the pedigrees. Forsters, as might be expected, meet us on every side, just as we shall find the Fenwicks in the southern districts of the county. Mr. Bateson has been allowed to draw largely from the historical materials preserved in the library at Alnwick. Two Dukes of Northumberland have generously collected them with a view to the history of the county. Full access has been given to them with equal generosity, for which many as well as Mr. Bateson are infinitely obliged.

Border feuds and warfare are continually cropping up. The story of the plot against Sir Thomas Clifford, Captain of Berwick, and its discovery, as told in the State Papers, is of remarkable interest. It must be read in connexion with the still more striking tale of the adventures of John Heron and the Carnabys, which may be found in the 'Memorials of Hexham.' The men of Bamburgh were wreckers, and plundered with glee the richly laden ship of the Bishop of St. Andrews in 1472.

The volume is well illustrated, and the pencil has been largely used as well as the pen. We wish every success to Mr. Bateson and his coadjutors in their laborious and most welcome undertaking. The list of the Committee is one which must command respect, and it is pleasant to see that Earl Percy is a member of it. This is as it should be. We feel sure that the members of his noble house will see that this history of the county which owes so much to them is continued, and that the first volume of the 'History of Northumberland' is a sample only of a long series to come.

A Book of Recollections. By John Cordy Jeaffreson. 2 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

WITHOUT writing a formal or complete autobiography, Mr. Cordy Jeaffreson has judiciously set down as much as he thinks worth telling about his personal history and his domestic affairs, his journalistic and literary achievements, and his relations with men and women of note during his time. In a concluding chapter he bids "farewell" to

the public, but, as he is only sixty-two years old, there is no reason why he should not add a few more volumes to the many he has already issued, or, as his present 'Recollections' are mainly about friends and foes no longer alive, why he should not hereafter talk freely in print concerning several contemporaries to whom now only passing references are made.

The living are not wholly excluded from this collection of gossip, but Mr. Jeaffreson is too much a man of the world, and possessed of too correct taste, to wound any one's feelings. His volumes are laudably free from indiscretions, while at the same time they contain much amusing gossip. One of Mr. Jeaffreson's uncles was a surgeon in Islington and a friend of Isaac D'Israeli, about whose famous son we have an amusing anecdote:—

"In his childhood, the future statesman was a frequent visitor at John Jeaffreson's house in Upper Street, and was the familiar playmate of the surgeon's children, and so great a favourite in their home that he was allowed, and indeed encouraged, to take extravagant liberties with his good-tempered host, who delighted in the little fellow's singular beauty, extraordinary intelligence, and audacious 'pranks.' One of these pranks will suffice to show that the marvellous child was not chiefly remarkable for reverence for his elders. Though he was no fop (indeed, the badness of his coats and the general carelessness of his attire live to this day in the recollection of Islington gossips), John Jeaffreson was particular about the dressing of his superabundant curly tresses, which were drawn together in accordance with a rather antiquated fashion, and tied with ribbon into a short loop-queue at the back of his neck. It struck little Ben, *et al.* six or seven, that the doctor would look better without this appendage to his hair. As he was a very early riser, it was John Jeaffreson's daily practice to retire to his consulting-room after his mid-day meal, and sitting in a chair to refresh himself with half-an-hour of sound slumber, before he started on his afternoon's 'round' to his numerous patients. On awaking from one of these sound naps, the surgeon saw on the table what he recognized as his loop-queue, with its silken fillet. Little Ben, the pet of the whole house, had stolen noiselessly upon the surgeon, and with a pair of sharp scissors had removed the tail without rousing the sleeper. Springing from his chair, the tall doctor went in pursuit of the urchin who had offered him so strange an indignity, and, after chasing the 'little Pickle' upstairs and downstairs, captured him in the hall, to the extreme delight of a party of small children, whose laughter made the whole house ring from basement to garret. After tickling the lovely 'little rip' for a punishment till he almost cried from laughter, the big man took the small boy in his arms, and carried him into the garden for another game of romps. Instead of destroying it, John Jeaffreson and his wife preserved the queue as a memorial of the angelic devilry of the lovely child, whose astonishing cleverness had already moved them to predict that he would not live to old age, without winning a place amongst the celebrities of his period. The hair of the queue still exists in the form of a bracelet which one of John Jeaffreson's still surviving daughters guards as an interesting relic."

Concerning this same hero Mr. Jeaffreson tells another story which is worth quoting, though he admits that it is contradicted by other traditions, and that his uncle's memory may have been so far at fault that he confused the elder D'Israeli's second or third child with the first:—

"The story respecting the place and circumstances of the Younger Disraeli's birth, which John Jeaffreson I., of Islington, used to tell in his vigorous old age, and also in time before he had crossed the line that divides middle age from old age, was to this effect. In December, 1805 [?], Isaac Disraeli was dwelling, together with his wife, in a house adjoining the surgeon's house in Upper Street, Islington, when Mrs. Disraeli was seized with the pains of labour, sooner than she had expected. Promptly answering a summons from his next-door neighbours, the surgeon entered their house none too soon. Provided neither with a nurse nor with clothing suitable to the little stranger who was on the point of entering the world, the sick lady would have been in an especially miserable plight, had not Mrs. Jeaffreson (the surgeon's wife) bestirred herself to send a competent female attendant to the sufferer, and also to supply from her own stores the needful linen and raiment for the infant."

Mr. Jeaffreson in later years saw something of the great man whose birth is thus chronicled, and Lord Beaconsfield has a place among the friends and acquaintances about whom he gossips. There is much more, however, concerning Thackeray, Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy, Sir George Jessel, Henry Kingsley, Walter Thornbury, George Cruikshank, James Hannay, James Haylar, Miss Geraldine Jewsbury, Mr. Hepworth Dixon, Dr. Doran, Halliwell-Phillipps, and many more with whom he was associated in work or play. Of Jessel he relates a characteristic incident at dinner:—

"The fish having been removed, a single dish was put before Jessel as a sufficient prelude to the beef-steaks that were being grilled for the small party. Removing the cover with a flourish, the waiter displayed a small leg of pork, elegantly garnished with parsnips, to the four feasters—Jessel and Ernest Hart (two Jews), Spencer Smith and myself (two Christians). I was conscious of having glanced significantly at Spencer Smith, a glance that was of course a breach of good breeding, when Jessel, with perfect equanimity, but in a tone of severe parental superiority, said, 'Jeaffreson, what are you laughing at?' 'You wrong me, Jessel. I did not laugh;—if I smiled, regard it as a smile of gratification at the sight of one of my favourite creatures.' 'In that, at least, you show good taste,' Jessel returned, with Johnsonian severity. We all four partook of the interesting joint, eating it with the orderliness and silence befitting four people who felt themselves on ground scarcely less delicate than the meat. Having eaten a fair portion of the forbidden flesh, the future Master of the Rolls helped himself a second time. On laying down his knife and fork after consuming the second portion, he remarked, with a lofty air of tutorial condescension, 'Now, Jeaffreson, take this lesson to heart, and let it cure you of at least one of your vulgar prejudices.'"

This account of a picture which was popular in its day is entertaining:—

"Haylar's picture for the Academy Exhibition of 1864 was 'The Queen's Highway in the Sixteenth Century,' and it proved very attractive to picture-viewers at the Academy, though no policemen were put on special duty to guard the thing of art and beauty. There stood Queen Bess, with two ladies in attendance a few paces behind her, on the muddy and rutted road of a Sussex highway, keeping her eyes upon her coach, and at the same time watching the Sussex boors, who were labouring to get the ponderous vehicle out of the scrape, in which it was stuck fast. The Queen painted from a piquant Oxford Street *modiste*, the ladies-in-attendance, drawn from two Mesopotamian maid-servants, were examples of high-bred feminine delicacy and

stateliness, and of the costume of the period. The big coach had been painted from a state-chamber on wheels, that was said to have been greatly admired in Dublin, when His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Queen Bess's Ireland used to ride in it through his rather squalid capital. The boors and the landscape were well painted. For the subject of this picture Hayllar (a Sussex man) was indebted to Richard Cobden (another Sussex man), who had pressed the artist to depict a scene, so eloquent of the difficulties and discomforts of travelling by carriage in an English county, towards the close of the Tudor period. Cobden averred that he had read an account of this incident of one of Queen Elizabeth's progresses in some old county-history, resting in his Sussex home. Liking the subject, from Cobden's simple and yet eloquent statement of the case, Hayllar had painted the picture without having studied the printed words of Cobden's authority. Cobden had watched the progress of the picture with interest, and on the occasion of his last visit to the painter's studio had been enjoined to copy from the old county-history the *ipsissima verba* of the passage, of which the picture was the artistic illustration. On the last sending-in day for outsiders, the post, instead of bringing the longed-for transcript from the text of an old book, only brought a letter, in which the great Free Trader told how he and Mrs. Cobden and their children had been overhauling and searching a dozen different folios, in a vain hunt for the needful description. 'Here's a fix, Jeff! What the deuce am I to do?' said Hayllar, when he had told me his trouble. 'Can't you give me an authority? Be a good fellow, and find up something at the British Museum.' Said I, 'You ignominious fellow! Ignominious of the very matter that has been engaging your best thoughts for the last six months! I can give you sufficient authority, without going to the Museum. Here, I'll put it on that bit of paper.' Sitting down at a writing-table, I wrote these words,—

'The Queen's Highway in the Sixteenth Century.
J. Hayllar.

"The journey was marvellous for ease and expedition, for such is the perfect evenness of the New Highway, Her Highness left the coach only once, whilst hinds and folk of a base sort lifted it on with their poles."—*Vide*, Maud Ufford's Letter to Margery Pennington in D'Eyncourt's "Memoirs of the Maids of Honour"!

"Capital!" exclaimed Hayllar. "'Tis the very thing I wanted. What a marvellous memory you have, Jeff, to be able to bring that scrap out so pat and neat, at the very nick of time, from old D'Eyncourt's "Maids of Honour"! "Memory?" I answered, "I go to imagination for my facts. There never was any old D'Eyncourt; or, if there was, he never wrote a book about Maids of Honour. There must have been a Maud Ufford,—the name sounds like truth; but, you may take my word for it, she never wrote a line to Margery Pennington. This child is a novelist. He invented this pleasant quotation." "But the selecting committee and the hangers will spot it," Hayllar remarked, after coming out of his laughter. "Not a bit of it!" I answered. "It took you in,—and it will take them in. They are just as ignominious as you are."

It seems that no one discovered, or at any rate exposed, the fraud, and in at least one work of historical importance, written since 1864, the imaginary Maud Ufford's letter is quoted as "a piece of documentary evidence."

Mr. Jeaffreson started as an author while he was in his teens, and has been an indefatigable writer of books and miscellaneous articles ever since. The genesis and exodus of his numerous works, and his relations with publishers, editors, and critics,

along with much else that is readable and often instructive, are racily set forth in these volumes.

NEW NOVELS.

Christine. By Adeline Sergeant. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

THERE is little in Miss Sergeant's latest novel to differentiate it from the previous products of her indefatigable pen, always excepting her early and excellent story 'No Saint.' Gilbert Greville, tall, fair, blue-eyed, broad-shouldered, and "muscular as any Viking of ancient days," bears a strong family likeness to the heroes who have figured in the pages of Miss Sergeant's other books; and much the same may be said of Paul Florian, the supple, accomplished, handsome, and unscrupulous villain, of nondescript nationality, whose mendacity and fascination work havoc in the lives of all with whom he is brought into contact. 'Christine' is eminently a novel of incident, mainly of a sensational character, and might be described as a series of bolts from the blue. To accept some of the situations, notably that of Mrs. Vibert's elopement and its sequel, will strain the benevolence of some readers to the utmost. But in what may be called the oleographic romance it is, perhaps, unfair to look for a photographic fidelity to human nature. 'Christine' is a very artificial story, but it is told with the alertness and vigour which invariably characterize Miss Sergeant's work.

Diana Tempest. By Mary Cholmondeley. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

MISS CHOLMONDELEY writes with a brightness which is in itself delightful, apart from the subject on which she may happen to be engaged. But she does more than this—she exercises a rare discretion in choosing only such plots and characters for her novels as lie entirely within her grasp; the matter is suited to the manner, and both are excellent for the purpose. Her pictures of the "best society" are certainly optimistic, but probably few people will feel inclined to quarrel with a modern novelist on this account. Her men and women are refined persons of leisure, whether they have or have not great possessions. She also succeeds in endowing them with an aroma of personal distinction, a birthright of easy grace and self-possession, which are oftener looked for than found in real life, and seldom indeed exist in fiction. Her heroes and heroines move "high and disposedly" in the moral as well as the material world, and *noblesse* really obliges them to take a great deal of trouble, and face every sort of disagreeable without murmuring, in a manner which is heroic if, unhappily for our generation, a trifle roccoco. Her new story is stronger than 'Sir Charles Danvers,' but it has more dull pages in it; the number of them is not large, and they chiefly consist in moralizings of a general order, which are excellent in sentiment, but neither new nor forcible. On the other hand, the conversation is at least as sparkling as in the former book, and is only too amusing to be perfectly natural small talk. "Di" is a charming, high-bred creature, for whom Charles Dan-

vers, most attractive of men, would have formed a more fitting mate than the silent, chastened, and grim cousin who is the hero of the story. "John" is a finished study in a collection of admirable though slight character sketches. His silent agony of affection, as a solitary boy, for the tutor who saved his life at the expense of a terrible mutilation, is as strong a piece of work as his mature despair over the discovery which dashes the cup from his lips, and momentarily scatters his love, honour before men, possessions, and all that makes life dear to the winds. Then what could be more charming than the faithful affection subsisting between him and his old nurse, to whom the big, taciturn man remains "her precious lamb," and on whose knee he can still put down his head when his life breaks up under his feet? There are many passages on which it would be a pleasure to dwell, many remarks that are tempting to quote, such as Di, for instance, at a fashionable marriage, "I should know a wedding smile anywhere"; or the old reprobate Lord Frederick Fane's observations on womankind, "Look at Lady Torrington, that emblem of plenty without waist," and so forth; but space and time are alike limited. So let every one who can enjoy an excellent drawing-room novel, full of humour, touched with real pathos, regulated by conventionality of the best order, written with finished taste and skill, read 'Diana Tempest.'

Miss Stuart's Legacy. By F. A. Steel. 3 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

NOR in 'Miss Stuart's Legacy' does Mrs. Steel show for the first time her close acquaintance with Anglo-Indian life and manners, not merely in their more obvious phases, but with respect to those conditions visible only to thoughtful observers who can use their opportunities. What she knows really is "knowledge" well assimilated, therefore never heavy, obtrusive, nor out of place, even in fiction of the three-volume sort. 'Miss Stuart's Legacy' is quite a good story, though some of the delays and complications are perhaps a trifle overdone. The first volume is distinctly bright and pleasing. Faizapore, with its small civil and military community, is clearly true to life and experience. Belle Stuart is a natural sort of girl, and a nice one; her father also appears, alas! but too like reality; and the group of step relatives, though slightly sketched, is in the same free and natural vein. Marsden makes no bad hero, and Raby shows human nature, mostly of a displeasing sort, though restrained and tempered with redeeming qualities. The descriptions of places and atmospheric effects are striking and unlaboured. The author obliges us to see with her eyes in a very few words. Not the least interesting parts are concerned, however, with the strife between native races and their conflicting desires. The sketches of some of "the original owners of the soil," and the old-world customs and prejudices that prevail side by side with European civilization, are curious and impressive.

Juliet's Lovers. By Mabel Collins. 3 vols. (Ward & Downey.)

THAT life is a ghastly fraud, "more unreal than any mimic show of it could be,"

that there is "no true love, no honour, no honesty in the world," that the only true men are those who are dull and "impossible," that disappointment and disillusion must be cured by "raffiné pleasure-seeking" and "fin de siècle indifference and cynicism"—this appears to be the hopeless moral conveyed in 'Juliet's Lovers.' It may not have been the author's intention in writing her story, but the impression remains on the reader's mind when the third volume is laid aside. The dull man gets himself a wife at the last, but her heart is dead in her bosom, and beyond these two there is hardly a single character in the book who is not shockingly wicked or shockingly victimized by wickedness. 'Juliet's Lovers' is a romance of actors, actresses, and lords: Juliet's father has a wife and a mistress; Juliet's husband, ditto, ditto; one theatrical manager is a woman of "consummate wickedness," who wears a live snake for a bracelet; another theatrical manager is a madman who murders an actor, just to please Miss Collins when she wants to get rid of him. Readers who like to have their emotions roughly stirred up and commingled will find in these volumes a succession of decidedly strong sensations, and from their point of view the novel is sufficiently engrossing.

The Triumph of Theresa. By Jeffrey Arden. 2 vols. (Sampson Low & Co.)

Theresa who triumphs is the young and captivating widow of a high-placed Russian, and she is sent to England, under one of those threats so notoriously common with the Russian Government, to worm a War Office secret out of any one whom she may find qualified to betray it. She secures a colonel, receives from his hands a sealed packet, representing his honour and his life—and then the climax. Theresa has her triumph, but whether it is at the same time a triumph for the Russian Government, or for the inevitable second Russian who comes over to watch the spy on his own account, or for the gallant colonel in the Guards who plays for such remarkably high stakes, it must be left for the author to tell in his or her own way. If Jeffrey Arden is a lady, as seems probable enough, she has evidently been at pains over the details of her picture, in which there is much good work. As to the quasi-political incidents, the reader must judge of their probability for himself.

The Swing of the Pendulum. By Frances Mary Peard. 2 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

A CHARMING story is 'The Swing of the Pendulum.' Norwegian travel, autumn life in English country places, glimpses of London drawing-rooms and the decks of a pleasure yacht, alternate very attractively in Miss Peard's refined and crisply written narrative. With such a setting the romance of Anne Dalrymple and her three lovers, the friendship of two of these men for each other, and the collateral romances of Lady Fanny Enderby and Millie Ravenhill, consistently coloured and characterized throughout, are sufficiently redeemed from the commonplace to satisfy even a fastidious reader. The oscillations of Miss Dalrymple's

placid and somewhat shallow affections are carefully studied; and she seems to be a faithful representation of a by no means contemptible type of womanhood.

Miss Parson's Adventure. By W. Clark Russell. And other Stories by other Writers. (Chapman & Hall.)

THESE eight stories by well-known romancers include nothing of exceptional merit or interest, but they are all sufficiently attractive for their purpose. A couple of illustrations to each story increase the satisfaction to be derived even from the leisure-hour fancies of novelists like Mr. Clark Russell, Mr. Norris, Mr. Hawthorne, and Mrs. Alexander. Mr. Russell contributes a longshore yarn of a man and a maid who were independently wafted in their boats to a wreck, floating in a fog four or five miles from Tormouth, which turned out to be a halfway-house to matrimony. Mr. Julian Hawthorne indulges in a combination of hypnotism with physical impossibilities. These are amongst the best of the batch of eight, but all the eight are entertaining.

The World's Pleasures. By Clara Savile-Clarke. (Bliss, Sands & Foster.)

THE world's pleasures are sad frauds according to Miss Savile-Clarke; or rather, like Mrs. Wilfer, when she says "pleasures" she does not mean them in any sense whatever. The fruits of marriage, sin, blue eyes, and inheritance are all turned to ashes in the course of four of these stories, while in the fifth, which treats of the pleasures of Bohemia, the reader is left in considerable doubt whether even Bohemia could modify Miss Savile-Clarke's gloomy generalization. The whole book is slightly "young" and crude in its pessimism and general view of life, but in two of the stories there is evidence of considerable originality. 'Blue-eyed Pleasure' is the longest and most ambitious story, and by no means the least successful.

God's Will, and other Stories. By Ilse Frapan. Translated by Helen A. Macdonell. "Pseudonym Library." (Fisher Unwin.)

DOMESTIC sentiment is the dominant characteristic of Ilse Frapan's short stories of German peasant and working-class life. In 'God's Will,' the longest and by far the most successful of the collection, this vein is worked with charming results, and the conflict between love and duty in the heart of the heroine is portrayed with considerable command of simple pathos. The strongly contrasted characters of the two sisters are both vividly drawn, and the quaint and unexpected dénouement casts a gleam of sunshine over the somewhat sombre atmosphere of the story. In 'The Old Bookkeeper' and the 'Christmas Story' the sentiment is flavoured with a Teutonic mawkishness. Miss Macdonell has done her work gracefully and efficiently but for the conspicuous error of representing the colloquial German of shopkeepers and servants by a sort of modified Cockney dialect. The last story is called 'The Scorchers,' that being—on the authority of Mr. Tom Mann, whom the translator has consulted—the equivalent in riverside parlance for the canal searcher

who plays so prominent a part in the tale. But to ninety-nine out of every hundred English readers the term is inseparably associated with the blatant bicyclist. The conscientious quest of accuracy sometimes defeats its own aims.

Suspicion Aroused. By Dick Donovan. (Chatto & Windus.)

DICK DONOVAN's grammar and style are not improved, and there is still an air of sapience in his conversations which is very naïve. "What is your opinion of the girl?" says the detective to the lawyer.

"Well—I believe that if she is not the absolute thief, she knows who is. Now, I should like to hear your opinion." "I can hardly give you one at present, but I will go this far. There is a good deal more in this matter than appears on the surface. I agree with you that on the face of it it seems commonplace enough, but there is a deeper depth that must be explored, and very probably that will disclose something startling."

Yet we think this volume an improvement on the last, from the point of view of lovers of the *Police Gazette* and the 'Newgate Calendar.' Some of these sordid and repulsive tales are founded on notorious fact, like the Lefroy case, in which the writer heartily vituperates the late Mr. Montagu Williams.

The Confessions of a Woman. (Griffith, Farran & Co.)

'THE CONFESSIONS OF A WOMAN' are niper to look at than to read. The pretty binding should enclose something better than the maunderings of a hysterical and self-centred young woman, who, whatever she may say, was no better than she should be; moreover she is a bore of the first water. A person who proclaims herself in these days to be "misunderstood" and "unappreciated" is certainly courageous, but she is not "quixotic," a word which is dragged through the dust by the author of these undesirable 'Confessions.' The heroine's attempts to fall in love with one person after another are of a thoroughness which is, to say the least, unusual, but they are not at all amusing. In fact, one cannot help wishing that "Alexandre, the implacable, the demon, the benefactor," had "come to see it done" a good deal earlier in the story.

THE LITERATURE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.

A VALUABLE work is *The Theory and Policy of Labour Protection*, by Dr. Schäffle, edited by Mr. Morant, and published by Messrs. Sonnenschein & Co. Dr. Schäffle, who is well known as a writer against the views of the German Social Democrats, is fairly impartial as regards many of the economic questions which are in dispute between Socialists and Individualists, and he, on the whole, shares the modern view, which is in favour in this country of the intervention of the State for the Protection of labour. He discusses in some detail most of the proposals which have been made in European countries for this Protection, and states incidentally the extent to which they have been at present carried in European legislation. It is unfortunate that he entirely omits the interesting information that he might have drawn from the British colonies. The best part of the book is that which discusses the eight-hours day, and the conclusion to which the author comes is that the universal eight-hours day has been put forward by the Socialist leaders, although it is not a

Socialist principle, for the purpose of enabling them to conceal that general scheme for the reorganization of society from the practical difficulties of the statement of which in Parliaments they recoil, and upon which they are not, as a fact, agreed. His conclusion on the merits of the scheme is that the discussion of it can do nothing but good, although its complete adoption lies in the distant future, and that it is wise for the State gradually to introduce a maximum working day in all trades, and gradually to reduce it, say first to ten and then to nine hours, while special trades in which the employment is continuously hard may be dealt with by special trade legislation. He is convinced that capital need not view with jealousy or suspicion the "visionary eight-hours day which may lie in the lap of the future, but which will have come about only gradually through a series of reductions by contract of the working day, each successive rise of wage and each successive shortening of the working day having been" what he calls "occasioned," but it seems by the context in some cases to mean accompanied, by a general public improvement. Dr. Schäffle says "by contract," but he also includes special trade laws and rules. The next most important portion of the book is that which concerns the prevention of the factory labour of married women, towards which he inclines. "No less important a matter is at stake than the restoration of the family life of the whole body of the factory workers." Dr. Schäffle hardly brings out with sufficient clearness the extent to which several of the continental countries, and especially France, have now gone in this direction in their legislation. It may safely be asserted that the annual report of the French permanent Labour Commission is now likely to become the chief source of information for those who are interested in this question. Our author discusses truck, and all the matters which were mooted at the Berlin Labour Conference.

ANOTHER work on similar subjects is *Socialism: its Growth and Outcome*, by Messrs. William Morris and Belfort Bax, also published by Messrs. Sonnenschein & Co. This book is very different in appearance from that which we have just noticed, which is produced in the plain fashion common to the books of the "Social Science Series." The book of which Mr. William Morris is the principal author is produced in a style as consistent with his poetic and artistic surroundings as is to be expected, and its margins, its paper, and its type and binding make it a pleasure to behold. When we come, however, to the contents, where, of course, we find a cultivated and a pleasant style, we discover, indeed, a history of that which has frequently been described—the growth of Socialistic opinion from the days of the ancients to those of Saint-Simon, Fourier, Owen, Karl Marx, and the Paris Commune; but while there is much, therefore, about the "growth," the "outcome" is dealt with only in the last two or twentieth and twenty-first chapters, and in a somewhat perfunctory fashion. We should hardly like to use language which would not be that of politeness about writers so civilized and so civil; but we fail to find the slightest guidance, and we fail even to discover anything that is new in these two chapters. They might be sermons upon Socialism preached from a pulpit by one of the fashionable clergymen of the day in whom Socialism assumes its pleasant "society" forms, and who does not wish to drive away from his church the capitalists who support its institutions. The book will be read because it is so pretty and so pleasant, but we fear that it will not increase the sum of human knowledge.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

SEA STORIES.

Watch and Watch; or, the Decoyed, by W. C. Metcalfe (Nisbet & Co.), will probably meet the taste of the boys for whom it is intended. There is, at least, plenty of excitement: a ship in distress; a mutiny; two murders, one of which, however, turns out quite harmless; a homicidal maniac; a chase for life up the rigging, which brings the author, rather cruelly, into contrast with Mr. Stevenson; a young lady, the murdered captain's daughter, whose charms and purity even drunken mutineers respect; and a love-smitten apprentice, who appears as a reflection, in a green-tinted mirror, of some of Mr. Clark Russell's familiar creations. As the story is dated exactly in 1848, and is largely made up of an episode also exactly dated forty years earlier, it is interesting to learn that in 1808 a merchant ship of 800 tons was making a passage across the Eastern Seas by herself, without thought of convoy, French privateers, or insurance, and bound for Singapore, an uninhabited island; and incidentally, from what we must by courtesy call illustrations, that in 1848 the respectable captain of a large merchant ship sported a full beard, while the junior officers wore trimmed moustaches.

With the Sea Kings: a Story of the Days of Lord Nelson, by F. H. Winder (Blackie & Son), is the record of a remarkable schooner, a privateer, which in 1803 or 1804 went for a cruise down the coast of France and into the Mediterranean. She "carried broadsides of eighteen-pounders, in addition to the heavy swivel-gun amidships." The weight and range of this gun were unrivalled, and the Ocean Witch—such was the privateer's name—could weather any square-rigged craft that was ever launched, so it is not surprising that at the very outset she captures a large French frigate; afterwards she beats off two others, and later on takes under her kindly protection an English line-of-battle ship which is hard pressed, by a French squadron consisting of a French line-of-battle ship and two very large frigates. The Ocean Witch is quite equal to the emergency: she first captures one of the frigates, then the other, and finally pounds the line-of-battle ship into submission. Presently the British fleet appears on the scene, and the young hero is put on the quarterdeck of the Victory, which—without going to the West Indies—proceeds to Portsmouth. Afterwards she sails again, to fight the battle of Trafalgar, concerning which we have some details not generally known, and especially the description of a fierce hand-to-hand fight on the deck of the Victory when she was boarded in great force by the crew of the Redoubtable. Unfortunately for the story, most boys read the life of Nelson before they take to books such as this, and we may hope that they may protest against this silly travesty of facts, even if they are ready to swallow the eighteen-pounders, the swivel-gun, and the numerous captured frigates.

Just like Jack: a Story of the Brine and the Breeze, by Gordon Stables, M.D., R.N., is a work of higher pretensions than those just spoken of, and is not, like them, marred by absurdities which set at defiance the facts of history, geography, hydrostatics, and common sense. A little boy (Jack Ross) and his dog (Jack Skye) are introduced bathing from the shore somewhere in the Orkneys. H.M. ship Valorous is cruising off the coast at the moment, and a purblind admiral, who is taking a passage in her, fancying he sees the long-missing mermaid, has them captured and brought on board. So the two Jacks, kidnapped in this way, go for a voyage, which takes them to Bermuda and round Cape Horn to the Galapagos, where they are transferred to a merchant ship for a passage to England. But a mutiny breaks out: the mate is murdered, and the captain with the two Jacks is marooned. For a while they lead a sort of Swiss Family Robinson life, and after

tremendous fights with the cannibals they eventually get home, all well and hearty; when Jack Ross, being too old for the navy, bears up for the marines. The story is, of course, wildly impossible; but it may seem probable to a boy. It is curious, however, that Dr. Stables, who served long enough to know better, should make so many blunders as to the every-day trifles of naval life: should speak of Jack as being on the Valorous, of an officer of the present day having been masheaded as a youngster, or of the ship running under bare poles, close-hauled. The illustrations are almost equally funny; one of them, at any rate, shows the boarding officer—presumably a lieutenant—in the full dress of a full admiral. But that, as the modern boy says, is a detail. Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton are the publishers.

The Desert Ship, by J. Bloundelle-Burton (Hutchinson & Co.), is a tale of blood, and will therefore, it may be presumed, meet the taste of the boys for whom it is written; for the boy, at least in the estimation of publishers, is a bloodthirsty little animal, and the more horrors that are heaped together the better he likes the entertainment. If such a book was to be judged by the ordinary rules of art we might say the heap was too big. Battle and murder, shipwreck and drowning, are legitimate in moderation; but we should be inclined to draw the line within sacrifices to hideous idols and "banquets of the dead." Otherwise the story of the desert ship is a good story, and cloaks its impossibility in a Jules Verne-like probability, which carries the reader on despite his better judgment.

Westward with Columbus, by Gordon Stables, M.D. (Blackie & Son), is founded on fact, and does not transgress too grossly. A certain amount of licence is, perhaps, allowable in telling the story of Columbus for boys; but some will think that Dr. Stables contradicts himself in assuming that boys have no relish for geography, while he expects his youthful readers to accept a story whose romance is entirely geographical. But, in fact, boys like geography well enough when it comes before them in a form they can understand. None of them has, for instance, any difficulty in remembering that Grace plays for Gloucestershire, Shuter for Surrey, and Shrewsbury for Notts; and they will remember with equal ease that Columbus sailed from Palos, and first landed in the West Indies on an island he called San Salvador, if only they are brought to take an interest in it. The illustrations are not things of beauty, and though they may be considered good enough for their purpose, it is surely unnecessary to teach boys, even in fun, that the Mediterranean sailors of the fifteenth century wore the sea-boots of the modern English fisherman.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MESSRS. KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & Co. publish *The Life of Mr. Gladstone, told by Himself in Speeches and Public Letters*, compiled by Mr. H. J. Leech. Unfortunately Mr. Leech, so far as personal, private, or family life goes, suffers from a paucity of material, and, as he makes up for this by constituting the greater portion of his book out of quotations from political speeches about politics, he becomes merely political, and political in a confusing fashion. The effect of forming a continuous narrative out of Mr. Gladstone's words in different writings and speeches is chaotic, and the reader is forced to jump from one subject to another in a fashion which suggests the lunatic asylum. In the latter part of the book, however, a different plan is adopted by the selection of a number of reflections to which headings are given. This plan would have been better followed throughout the work. It is possible to construct out of the speeches and writings of such a man a volume of miscellaneous "ana" which is interesting to his admirers.

IN *Indian Memories*, by W. S. Burrell and Edith E. Cuthell (Bentley), we have a collection of short stories under three main heads, viz., those of the plains in the cold weather, of the hills in the hot weather, and of the highlands of Central India. They are for the most part pleasant recollections of the country agreeably described, with a fair appreciation of its varying circumstances; and as a contrast to the general sunshine we are given glimpses of the Mutiny storm. The tales are so slight and unpretentious as to disarm criticism; but it may be pointed out that "karki" for *khaki* (p. 92), and "marseer" for *mahseer* or *mahaseer* (p. 185), are errors of the same sort as Mr. Squeers fell into when he spelt window, "winder," and as a servant makes when she addresses her father as "par," or her sister as "Mariar." Moreover, the *mahseer* is not "a kind of river salmon," but is a distinguished member of the carp family known to the learned as *Barbus mosal*, a game fish which affords excellent sport to anglers. The paper and type are excellent, and the little volume is tastefully bound.

It seems rather odd that any one should undertake the very considerable task of translating *The Literary Recollections of Maxime du Camp*, 2 vols. (Remington & Co.), at this time of day. Not, indeed, that they are not worth reading; on the contrary, their merits both as a piece of literature and as a storehouse of information—not always uncontested or incontestable, but valuable for the literary history of the middle of this century in France—need no vindication here. But the book is by no means new; and it has lost the additional interest of controversy which surrounded it for some time after its first appearance. Moreover, but a small part of it, we should suppose, can have much attraction for the general reader; while readers who appreciate its contributions to literary and personal history must surely in by far the larger number of cases be able to read French. But we have never fully understood the principle and practice which govern the translation of books of this kind; and we do not know that this is an exceptionally puzzling example. The translator, who is anonymous, has done his work in a dogged fashion, laying about him, as the French themselves say, "great blows of dictionary," and so beating his way through his 800 large and solid pages without any notable check. But his work has at no time much spirit or elegance; and now and then it is a little grotesque.

In *the Footsteps of the Poets* (Isbister & Co.) is a pretty little volume suitable for a Christmas present. It consists of essays of a popular character by Prof. Masson, Canon Benham, Mr. John Dennis, Mr. R. H. Hutton, the Bishop of Ripon, and other writers.

COL. A. PEARSON has abridged the late Mr. J. A. Symonds's valuable monograph on 'The Renaissance in Italy.' *A Short History of the Renaissance in Italy* (Smith, Elder & Co.) is a readable and useful volume.

Two articles by Sir Walter Scott—*Manners, Customs, and History of the Highlanders of Scotland*, and *An Historical Account of the Clan MacGregor*—which originally appeared in the *Quarterly Review*, have been reprinted by Mr. Morison, of Glasgow, but he has not troubled to affix the dates.—A handsome edition of *Vathek*, edited by Dr. Garnett and illustrated by Mr. Nye, has reached us from Messrs. Lawrence & Bullen. Henley's notes are given in full. Dr. Garnett's preface is one of the best pieces of work he has done. The story of Beckford's visit to Paris during the Terror is a curious little bit of unknown history that would have escaped any one less of a walking encyclopedia than Dr. Garnett. He has also proved that 'Vathek' was not written at a single sitting, as Beckford declared in his old age. The internal evidence seems to be against any such idea.

ANOTHER handsome volume is the second edition of Mr. Clark's *Golf: a Royal and Ancient Game* (Macmillan & Co.). Well printed, well illustrated, this volume is the standard work on the history of the game, and deserves a hearty reception at the hands of the monstrous regiment of the Englishry as well as of the writer's own countrymen.

MESSRS. GRIFFITH & FARRAN have added to their promising "Standard Library" *Bond-slaves*, by Mrs. Linneus Banks, and *On Golden Hinges*, by Dora Russell.—Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. have added to their reissue of Mr. W. Black's novels *The Strange Adventures of a House-Boat*.

ONE of the prettiest of Mr. Frowde's many pretty publications is the *Thumb Prayer Book*, a wonderful specimen of much in little achieved without sacrificing clearness of type or excellence of paper. It is a masterpiece in its way.

MESSRS. DE LA RUE have sent us an assortment of their tasteful diaries, pocket-books, and calendars, which are too well known to need criticism. Nothing better of their kind is produced in any country than these pretty chronicles of the flight of time.—Messrs. Cassell have forwarded some of Letts's welcome diaries and pocket-books, which deserve praise for utility and sound good workmanship.—We are indebted to Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co. for a large variety of pocket-books and calendars of great excellence, and showing considerable ingenuity and invention. The same firm send us a number of booklets and Christmas cards of much beauty and taste.—From Messrs. Faulkner we have also received a large assortment of their Christmas cards, calendars, and booklets, which are worthy of all commendation, and also an amusing race game.—Messrs. Mowbray have forwarded a number of Christmas cards of the type with which their name is associated.

WE have on our table *The London University Guide for 1893-94* (Clive).—*The Patriot Parliament of 1689*, by T. Davies, edited by Sir C. G. Duffy (Fisher Unwin).—*Women of the Valois Court*, by Hubert de Saint-Amand, translated by E. G. Martin (Hutchinson).—*Exercises in Latin Prose Composition*, by F. Ritchie (Longmans).—*Macmillan's History Reader for Standard VII.* (Macmillan).—*Double Entry Book-keeping*, by O. R. F. Minck (Liverpool, Jaggard).—*Blackie's Science Readers*, No. VI., by the Rev. T. Wood (Blackie).—*The Process of Argument*, by A. Sidwick (Blackie).—*The Industries of Animals*, by F. Housay (Scott).—*The Quickenings of Caliban*, by J. C. Rickett (Cassell).—*The Elements of Natural Science*, Part III., by Dr. H. Wettstein (Newmann).—*Reflections upon Musical Art*, by J. Goddard (Goddard).—*Stray Minutes*, by E. H. L. Watson (Leadenhall Press).—*Essays in Illness*, by A. Repplier (Boston, U.S., Houghton).—*Band of Hope Outline Addresses* (C.E.T.S.).—*The Bridal March*, by Björnson, and *The Watch*, by Turgenieff, translated by J. E. Williams (Digby & Long).—*Stories from Garshin*, translated by E. L. Voynich (Fisher Unwin).—*Rambles in Shakespeare's Land*, by G. Morley (Record Press).—*Scotland Yard*, by Detective-Inspector Andrew Lansdowne (Leadenhall Press).—*Through the Sikh War*, by G. A. Henty (Blackie).—*The True Story of a Bull-Fight*, by R. St. J. Corbet (Leadenhall Press).—*Miss Percival's Novel*, by N. Hellis (S.P.C.K.).—*Delilah of Harlem*, by R. H. Savage (Routledge).—*Daring Tom*, by E. C. Kenyon (S.S.U.).—*A Year's Tragedy*, by C. Quentin (New York, Cleveland Publishing Co.).—*Faith Harrowby*, by S. Doudney (S.S.U.).—*On Stronger Wings*, by E. Lester (Cassell).—*At the Front*, by One who was There (Gardner).—*C.E.T.S. Juvenile Reciters and Dialogues* (C.E.T.S.).—*Idyls of Love and Life*, by E. C. Adams (Kegan Paul).—*The Moslem Present*, Part I., by Shaikh Faizullah-Bhai (Bombay, Education Society's Press).—*Selections from the*

Works of Constance C. W. Naden (Bickers).—*An Illusive Quest*, by H. Freeman (Digby & Long).—*Patriotic Poetry* (F. Norgate).—*Lyrics and Songs*, by James W. Brown (Carlisle, Thurnam).—*Shakespeare's 'King Henry IV., Part II.*, edited by K. Deighton (Macmillan).—*Theology in English Poetry*, by S. A. Brooke, LL.D. (Green).—*The Lessons of Holy Scripture*, by Rev. J. H. Wanklyn, Vol. I. (Bemrose).—*English Orders*, by Rev. J. B. Smith (Skeffington).—*Stepping Stones to Life*, by Rev. J. G. Gibson (Digby & Long).—*A Handbook of Rational Piety*, by H. W. Crosskey, LL.D. (Green).—*Philipp Jacob Spener*, by F. F. Walrond, M.A. (S.P.C.K.).—*Victor Hugo*, by L. Mabileau (Hachette).—*Le Roi de la Ligue*, by P. Mahalin (Paris, Lévy).—*And La Cigale chez les Fourmis*, Comédie en un Acte, en Prose, edited by H. Testard (Hachette). Among New Editions we have *On the Indian Hills*, by E. L. Arnold (Low).—*The Private Life of an Eminent Politician*, by E. Rod (W. H. Allen).—*A Dictionary of the New Zealand Language*, by the Right Rev. W. Williams, D.C.L. (Williams & Norgate).—*The Adventures of Prince Almero*, by W. Pickering (Bliss, Sands & Foster).—*Robinson Crusoe*, by D. Defoe (Blackie).—*Jonathan Merle*, by E. B. Bayly (Jarrold).—*Songs in Spring-Time*, by J. C. Grant (E. W. Allen).—*and A Handbook of Ornament*, by F. S. Meyer (Batsford).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Davidson's (W. T.) *The Psalms of Israel*, an Introduction to the Study of the Psalms, 12mo, 2/6 cl.
Dick's (G. H.) *The Yoke and the Anointing*, and other Sermons, 8vo, 6/ cl.
Dunkley's (Rev. C.) *Official Report of the Church Congress*, 1893, 8vo, 10/6 cl.
Halconbe's (Rev. J. J.) *What Think Ye of the Gospels?* 3/6
Harnack's (Dr. A.) *Outlines of the History of Dogma*, 7/6 cl.
Hort's (F. J. A.) *The Way, the Truth, the Life*, cr. 8vo, 6/ cl.
Peloubet's (F. N. and M. A.) *Select Notes, a Commentary on the International Lessons*, 1894, 8vo, 5/ cl.

Law.

Bigelow's (M. M.) *Elements of the Law of Bills*, cr. 8vo, 10/6
Goodnow's (F. J.) *Comparative Administrative Law*, 2 vols. 8vo, 25/ cl.
Hewitt's (E. P.) *A Treatise on the Statutes of Limitations*, 8vo, 16/ cl.
Matthews's (J. B.) *The Law relating to Covenants*, 8vo, 9/ cl.
Ryde's (W. C.) *Reports of Rating Appeals*, 8vo, 10/ cl.

Fine Art.

Ansted's (A.) *The Riviera, Etchings and Vignettes*, folio, 25/ cl.
Hutton's (R. G.) *A Text-Book of Elementary Design*, 2/6 cl.
Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, written and illustrated by H. Pyle, royal 8vo, 10/6 cl.
Ryan's (C.) *Egyptian Art, an Elementary Handbook*, illustrated, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.
Taylor's (E. R.) *Drawing and Design*, oblong 8vo, 2/6 cl.

Poetry and the Drama.

Bancroft's (W.) *Lays of a Salt Town*, cr. 8vo, 4/6 cl.
Deland's (M.) *The Old Garden*, and other Verses, 8vo, 12/6
De Vere's (A.) *Medieval Records and Sonnets*, 12mo, 5/ cl.
Jebb's (R. C.) *The Growth and Influence of Classical Greek Poetry*, cr. 8vo, 7/ net, cl.
Marshall's (F.) *Waking Thoughts, The Mystic River, and other Poems*, 18mo, 2/ cl.
Salvini (T.) *Leaves from the Autobiography of*, cr. 8vo, 6/ cl.

Philosophy.

Bacom's (J.) *An Historical Interpretation of Philosophy*, cr. 8vo, 7/6 cl.
Brown's (J. B.) *Stoics and Saints, Lectures on the Later Heathen Moralists*, 8vo, 7/6 cl.

Bibliography.

Uzanne's (O.) *The Book-hunter in Paris*, illus. 21/ cl.

History and Biography.

Adams's (W. H. D.) *The Maid of Orleans and the Great War of the English in France*, illus. cr. 8vo, 5/6 cl.
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NAPOLEONIC LITERATURE.

11, Queen's Road, Beckenham, Nov. 13, 1890.

THE REV. MR. GRINDON'S letter is beside the mark. I did not doubt his good faith, but neither that, nor his childlike confidence, nor the details into which he enters, make any difference to the fact that a practically identical version of the greater part of his MS. has been published (as I now discover) at least twice before: first, in 1833, at Boston, U.S., and again, in 1888, by Simpkin, Marshall & Co. The former publication, of which I was not aware when I wrote to you, I found on consulting the Museum catalogue, under the heading "Napoleon," a simple process which I recommend to the Rev. Mr. Grindon, his literary advisers, and anybody else who takes an interest in the subject. "The manuscript," says the preface, "is in the handwriting of a gentleman well known and much respected at St. Helena, who officiated as private secretary to Admiral Cockburn during the voyage. He has since died, and it is through his family connexions that the public are now favoured with this interesting document."

The latter version, a copy of which is in my possession, is described in the preface as "a reproduction of a copy found at St. Helena, in 1824 or 1825, among the effects of one who had held an official position as admiral's secretary or captain's clerk on board the Northumberland on her voyage to St. Helena." The 1833 and 1888 versions are, except for a few verbal alterations, precisely the same; the 1893 version has several unimportant variations in phrasing, and order of paragraphs, but, so far as I can see, the only really new matter is that under August 13th and 14th (which covers about three quarters of a page of the *Century*), and the narrative of what occurred after St. Helena was reached.

The editor of the *Century*, corroborating the Rev. Mr. Grindon's assurance that "there is not a shadow of reason for supposing that the Napoleon MS. has been even partially printed before," says, "Careful inquiry fails to reveal any such publication." It would be interesting to know where and by whom that "careful inquiry" was instituted.

I may add that I wrote to Mr. Fisher Unwin on the subject before communicating with you, but he did not reply to my letter.

HERBERT E. CLARKE.

PILGRIMAGES TO MECCA.

28, Onslow Gardens.

IN the memorial edition of Sir Richard Burton's 'Pilgrimage to Mecca' appendices are given purporting to enumerate those travellers who before or since have visited that Holy City. If the object of the editor, Lady Burton, has been merely to exalt her husband at the expense of everybody else, the suppression of persons and information therein is quite intelligible; but if, on the other hand, she conscientiously desired to record the names of the European travellers who have been to Mecca, she has carelessly mystified her readers. The list consists of:—

1. Ludovico Bartema, A.D. 1503.
2. Joseph Pitts, 1680.
3. Giovanni Finati, 1814.
4. El Haj Abd el Wahid (*sic*), without date.

Even the famous Burckhardt being omitted. It may consequently be a surprise to some to learn that the grand-sounding, incorrectly spelt No. 4 was only my brother, a private gentleman, Herman Bicknell, who having been to Mecca in 1862, without any disguise of person or of nationality, on his return published in the

Times the brief account (the only one he ever wrote) of his journey which Lady Burton has now reprinted without a word of explanation. But perhaps it would have been distasteful to have stated that he dissented totally from such absurd descriptions as that contained in Lady Burton's preface, where she says the pilgrimage "meant living with your life in your hand amongst the strangest and wildest companions, adopting their unfamiliar manners, living for nine months in the hottest and most unhealthy climate upon repulsive food, in complete and absolute isolation from everything that makes life tolerable"; nor would it very likely have befitted the apotheosis of her hero to have announced that Hájí Muhammad 'Abd ul-Wahid was another ex-Indian officer, who declared that "no one need be deterred by exaggerated reports concerning the perils of the enterprise, and that any Englishman externally a Muslim, and bearing an Arabic name, who is conversant with the customs of the Muslims, need apprehend no danger."

Far too much, indeed, has been made of the Mecca pilgrimage, and it is time the drum-beating about the deadly peril of the exploit is estimated at that true value my brother modestly and exactly assigned to it. I write this, however, chiefly because it is not fair that, to augment the glorification of one man, another, a most accomplished linguist and adventurous traveller, should have his identity concealed under an Arabic pseudonym, and his name omitted from every index Lady Burton issues, notwithstanding that his life has been thought worthy of a place in Stephen's 'Dictionary of National Biography,' and his work on Hafiz is an important contribution to Oriental literature.

A. S. BICKNELL.

THE HAZLITT PAPERS.

NEXT week Messrs. Sotheby will disperse an important collection of books and MSS. formed or inherited by Mr. W. C. Hazlitt, the grandson of the famous essayist, and himself well known as an English bibliographer. The catalogue contains five or six hundred lots, many of which will attract the attention of collectors of every variety, but the interest centres in the family papers—letters and MSS. of William Hazlitt, his wife, and his friends, such as the Lambs and Leigh Hunt. The most striking lots are those which comprise the material from which was made up the notorious 'Liber Amoris,' the most morbid and, in every aspect, the least worthy of Hazlitt's writings. "It is necessary to add," says Mr. W. C. Hazlitt, of one of the items (Lot 242), "that of the eleven folio letters to [P. G.] Patmore, the text in the 'Liber Amoris,' 1823, is much garbled, and whole passages are suppressed." The same is said of the original MS. of the book (Lot 245): "The ground for the suppression of certain passages is obvious." So obvious, indeed, is it, that it argues no little courage and generosity in the vendor that he should send these documents to the auction room. Most heirs burn such family papers, to the manifest loss of students of morbid psychology and pathology. Mr. W. C. Hazlitt takes a higher view of his responsibilities, and acts on it, though, as he points out in a prefatory note to the catalogue, in parting with the documents he "does great and sincere violence to his feelings." An item (Lot 246) intimately connected with the 'Liber Amoris' is the diary kept by Mrs. William Hazlitt in Scotland while the divorce proceedings of 1822 were going on. Many extracts from this diary are printed in the 'Memoirs of William Hazlitt,' but they were culled with a delicate hand, and the curious have now an opportunity of forming a more accurate notion of Hazlitt's engaging personal habits and his injured wife's idiosyncrasies than can be gathered from the 'Memoirs.' The unprinted portions of the diary do not, from various con-

siderations, readily lend themselves to quotation; but it is well to point out that they completely discredit the most essential part of the divorce story told by Hazlitt at Florence in 1825, and reported in Forster's 'Life of Landor.'

Fortunately the Hazlitt papers comprise an abundance of documents, the interest of which is more general and more strictly legitimate. We have, for instance, the MSS. of many of the 'Lectures,' and of some of the 'Table Talk' essays—notably a lot of sixteen (No. 250), which includes the autograph of the famous paper 'Of Persons one would have wished to have Seen'—a collection which would find its most fitting home in the British Museum. The same safe lodgment is eminently desirable for a bundle of between thirty and forty letters addressed by Charles and Mary Lamb to the Hazlitt family, for Lamb is still practically unrepresented in the MS. department of our national library. Most of these letters have been more or less completely printed, but none the less are they precious relics, and, besides, they are sadly in want of re-editing, both as regards text and dates.

Among the most interesting of the unprinted documents are a pair of letters which passed between Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt in 1821. In his 'Table Talk' essay 'On Paradox and Commonplace' Hazlitt was pleased to lash out against Shelley, to whom he attributed egotism, petulance, and some other qualities which the little circle had not been slow to detect in Hazlitt himself. Shelley was in Italy, and Hunt remonstrated on his own and on his friend's behalf, in a letter which has been printed in Hazlitt's 'Memoirs' (i. 305); but that was considerably toned down from the first draft, which now forms Lot 281 at Messrs. Sotheby's. Hunt tells Hazlitt a good many home-truths about his vanity and egotism and what not, in a vigorous fashion very unlike the fine crowquill style nowadays generally associated with the name of Leigh Hunt. Hazlitt's response (hitherto, we believe, quite unknown) is in keeping—indeed, each seems to have gone into the fray determined to make the other's ears and fingers tingle. But it was not a quarrel so much as a breeze—a stiff breeze of the kind necessary now and then to clear away the miasma so apt to gather and hang about a coterie. Of Hazlitt's writings more than enough is already in print, but it is surprising that a little document like the letter to Hunt, so intensely characteristic, so self-revealing, should have been suppressed. As mere autobiography it is worth a score of his best autobiographical essays. In these he goes about the chambers of his nature with a dim candle or a dazzling blaze; here he turns a steady bull's-eye lantern on himself. "My dear Hunt," he begins, with sweet reasonableness,

"I have no quarrel with you, nor can I have. You are one of those people that I like, do what they will: there are others that I do not like, do what they may..... You provoke me to think hard things of you, and then you wonder that I hit them into an Essay, as if that made any difference. I pique myself on doing what I can for others; but I cannot say that I have found any suitable returns for this, and hence, perhaps, my 'outrageousness of stomach.' For instance, I praised you in the *Edinburgh Review*, and when, in a case of life and death, I tried to lecture, you refused to go near the place, and gave this as a reason, saying that it would seem a collusion if you said anything in my favour after what I had said of you..... 3. I wrote a book in defence of Godwin some years ago, one half of which he has since stolen without acknowledgment, without even mentioning my name, and yet he comes to me to review this very work [in the *Edinburgh Review*]. 4. I have taken all opportunities of praising Lamb, and I never got a word from him in return, big or little, till the other day. He seemed struck all of a heap if I even hinted at the possibility of his giving me a lift at any time..... Colson had been backwards and forwards between my house and Bentham's [in York Street, Westminster] for between 3 and 4 years, and when Bentham philosophically put in an execution in my house, the plea was, he had never heard of my name..... By God, it is enough to

drive one mad. I have not a soul to stand by me, and yet I am to give up my only resource and revenge, a theory. I won't do it, that's flat!"

Poor Hazlitt had used almost the same words in the essay which gave rise to the breeze. "By Heavens!" he there concludes a catalogue, not so much of his own wrongs as of other people's successes, "I think I'll stand it no longer"—to such inarticulate noises was this brilliant essayist sometimes reduced! To Hunt he goes on to show how even the faithful, much-enduring Basil Montagu had once discouraged him from a proposed visit by saying "that there was a party expected." "Yet, after this," exclaims Hazlitt,

"I am not to look at him a little in *abstracto*. This is what has soured me and made me sick of friendship and acquaintanceship..... As to Shelley I do not hold myself responsible to him..... I am tired with playing at rackets all day, and you will be tired with this epistle. It has little to do with you (for I see no use in ripping up a parcel of small old grievances), but I think the general ground of defence is good. W. H."

This wild letter was written on a "Saturday," and on the "Monday" Hunt was impelled to reply in a letter which may be found printed in Hazlitt's 'Memoirs' (i. 308), and his views on the whole controversy are stated in his letter to Shelley of July 11th, 1821 ('Correspondence of L. Hunt,' i. 165).

Not the least interesting item in the catalogue is Lot 121, a copy of Samuel Daniel's 'Poems' (2 vols., 1718) which belonged to Charles Lamb, and which is copiously annotated by Coleridge. The text is very inaccurate, and many of the errors have been corrected by Lamb's pen, but there is only one critical note of his. At the end of the verses 'To the Angel Spirit of the most Excellent Sir Philip Sidney,' Lamb writes:—

"This seems written *by, or for,* the Countess of Pembroke, sister to Sir P. Sidney, who joined with him in the Psalms, elegant, and Anglo-courtly, but not true Hebrew, like Milton's."

A few of Coleridge's annotations were printed in *Notes and Queries* for August 7th, 1852, and not very correctly. Here are one or two which have never been printed. On the margin opposite Book V. stanza cxiii., marking the second line of the stanza,—

Then as for those who were his followers,
Being all choice men for virtues or deserts,

Coleridge writes:—

"It is perhaps worth noticing as an excellence suited to the style of the Poetry (whatever may be thought of that) that the accents and scansion of Daniel's lines more assist the reading of the sense, than in any work I know. If the line runs ill to you, you may be sure you have not read it in its exact sense. The whole represents a grave easy man talking seriously to his friends. Sometimes, too, he breaks up, for a moment, the feeling of versification, but never by a *contradiction* to it, but by heightening the feeling of conversation—*ex. gr.*, by putting 3 important words in the most important line of an aphorism, as if at each of the three words, the speaker gave a wise nod, aided by the motion of the forefinger—

To Greatness, who Love and Opinion hath."

The line quoted is the last of st. civ., and Coleridge in the course of his annotations refers to Book VI. st. xlv. l. 4:—

Powers betray'd, Princes slain, Kings massacred;

and again to Book VI. st. civ. l. 6:—

Some for Revenge, some for Wealth, some for Delight,

as illustrations of this individual quality of Daniel's style.

In Book VI., stanzas xiii. and xiv., Daniel says that Warwick, "that brave King-maker," with his friends,

Laments the State, the People's Misery,
And (that which such a Pity seldom mends)
Oppression, that sharp two-edged Sword,
That others wounds, and wounds likewise his Lord.

On this Coleridge remarks:—

"We cannot too highly praise the strain of political morality thro' this work. No success, no heroism ever makes the author forget the immutable Right and Wrong; and if it be objected that the Right to the Throne is confounded with the Right to common property, to an estate or house;

yet still this was the creed of those ages—as much the creed of Henry the IVth and Vth, as of Richard the Second: yet Daniel was not blinded by it, so as to overlook the guilt of involving a nation in civil war on an old tho' rightful claim. See B. VI. st. xlv."

On Book VI. st. xxvi., *et seq.*, in which Daniel calls artillery "th' infernal Instrument new-brought from Hell" (&c.), Coleridge writes a long note which drifts into an estimate of Lucan's 'Pharsalia':—

"The passage vexes me: it has spoilt and characterized the poem, the best of its kind in any language: for, spite of a few dazzling passages in the 'Pharsalia,' it is as much superior to Lucan's (*mea quidem sententia*) as the steady staid gait of manhood to the all-sort-of-motions of a Hobbitohy; or, as plain and often deep sense to Stoical declamations. The 'Pharsalia' is really a Hobbitohy poem—neither man nor boy. It is to me just what I should have expected from a youth, well-educated and of strong natural talents at 19: and great works might have followed if he had lived, but more probably, if the work had been composed in his head and forgotten by himself. For no man is proof against the popularity of his own writings.—But in this long [speech] what vexes one, is that the whole might have been said in the author's own person (instead of in a speech of Nemesis to Pandora); the philosophy being shallow, indeed, and shortsighted (a cowardice of present evil is the character of the writers of that age), but it is of a piece, it harmonizes, with the morally, tho' not *intellectually* (for that is scarcely possible) nobler *era* that succeeded. Even Milton fell into the nonsense of abusing Fire-arms."

We have noticed one mistake in the cataloguing—Lot 429, 'Rejected Articles,' is attributed to Hamilton Reynolds, instead of to P. G. Patmore.

MR. FRANCIS PARKMAN.

By the death of Mr. Parkman at Boston, on the 9th of this month, America has lost her best historian. The city in which he died was that of his birth on September 16th, 1823. His father was a leading Unitarian minister, who is remembered as the founder of the Professorship (which bears his name) of Pulpit Eloquence and Pastoral Care in the Theological School at Cambridge. Much of Francis Parkman's early life was spent in his grandfather's house at Medford, where he acquired a liking for country life and delighted to wander in the woods. He graduated at Harvard in 1844, and two years later he made a journey to the West, then a wild and comparatively unknown region, where Indians formed the majority of the inhabitants. He became intimate with the Dakotah, being admitted to share their lives and to join them in their hunting expeditions. He was accompanied by Mr. Q. A. Shaw, who was of his own age, and was as ready as he to learn what savage life meant. He was a witness of the expedition engaged in the conquest of New Mexico under the command of Colonel, afterwards General, Kearney. The military strategy of this commander was not so remarkable as his success. When complimented by General Taylor, he candidly remarked that he did not know anything about manœuvring; adding, "The boys kept coming to me to let them charge; and when I saw a good opportunity, I told them they might go. They were off like a shot, and that's all I know about it."

When Parkman returned home he dictated an account of his experiences in the West, his eyesight being so weak that he could not use his pen. In respect to his eyes, he suffered in the same way, though not to the same extent, as his illustrious countryman and fellow historian Prescott. From his earliest days Parkman longed to narrate how the French obtained a footing in the New World, how they acted while they maintained it, and how they were dispossessed. Although he kept this object in view when collecting material, he was not unmindful of the aborigines who had been supplanted by the English and the French, and of whose habits he had formed an opinion based upon his experience

among their descendants. Hence it was that his first book, which was introductory to a series of careful studies of American history, dealt with 'The Conspiracy of Pontiac.' In this work he aimed, to use his own words, "at portraying the American forest and the American Indian at the period when both received their final doom." He had then begun that careful collection of documents which enabled him to learn the facts with which he had to deal. With their aid he was able to compose his next work, 'The Pioneers of France in the New World.' This work appeared in 1865. It was as masterly as any which he had produced, yet it had cost the author extreme labour owing to his impaired health. He could not write for more than five minutes at a time. As he pathetically observed at the time of its publication, the state of his health for the preceding eighteen years had precluded him from mental occupation, except at long intervals and for a brief space. In fact, his power to produce was far inferior to his will, and this obstacle had to be faced by him during his career.

Despite difficulties that few could surmount, Parkman continued to give to the public historical works which were both fresh and interesting, being filled with the results of research and marked by a finish which demonstrated the hand of a master. They were entitled 'The Jesuits in North America,' 'La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West,' 'The Old Régime in Canada,' and 'Frontenac and New France under Louis XIV.' The readers of the last work were told by him that he had formed the intention at the age of eighteen of writing the books which he had produced, that he had examined localities, journeyed in forests, lived among Indians in order to collect materials on the spot. In addition, he had accumulated manuscripts, the consequence being an enlargement of his plan, and the continuation of what had become a task. When 'Montcalm and Wolfe' appeared in 1884, it was obvious that the great historian had crowned his labours by a work which, like the 'Decline and Fall' of Gibbon, may be rewritten, but cannot be surpassed. Happily, however, he did not lay aside his pen, and the only gap in the long and splendid series which he had planned was filled by the production of 'A Half-Century of Conflict,' which covered the period between that relating to Frontenac and that which ended with the death of Montcalm. This work completed the series, which, in Parkman's own correct phrase, "now forms a continuous history of the efforts of France to occupy and control the North American Continent." The two volumes of which 'A Half-Century of Conflict' is composed appeared last year, and now the historian's pen is laid aside for ever. In spite of chronic ill-health, he had lived to see the completion of his boyish plan.

Francis Parkman shares with Motley the honour, as Americans, of having attained to the first rank among historians. Each of them tried another department of literature. Motley produced two novels, both of which interest the student of literature more than the devoted reader of fiction. Francis Parkman wrote a novel in 1856 called 'Vassal Morton,' which gives a picture of certain spheres of life in Europe and America, but which is not equal, as a literary production, to his histories. He was a frequent visitor to Europe, and none who had the pleasure of his personal acquaintance could fail in holding him in high esteem. He was a student to the core. He had the dislike of parade which is notable among the best New Englanders. Men such as he represent a type which may soon be as rare in America as the Indian with whom he made friends, and the buffalo which he hunted. It is usually an exaggeration to speak of a man's loss as irreparable; yet, when we mourn the death of Parkman, we do so the more sincerely because he has not left behind him, and may never have, an equal among his countrymen.

THE MIDDLEMAN IN PUBLISHING.

It is probable that Mr. Heinemann's amusing letter in your issue of November 11th will draw forth all kinds of criticism, but those who have been in constant touch with the parasite, and are sufficiently behind the scenes, know that the state of affairs he so graphically depicts is not overdrawn.

The middleman in other businesses is, as a rule, to be relied on, and charges at the most 5 per cent.; but the literary parasites are not to be relied on, and charge the author 10 per cent.

Avoid the man who is always warning you of others is an old axiom, especially applicable to these manuscript touts, who not only unfairly pit publisher against publisher, but make an open rupture between publisher and author by misrepresentation and scandal; they live by it.

I, too, have had great experience with these so-called literary agents, and it was not until I thoroughly unmasked them that I found their promises of support and co-operation were myths for increasing their 10 per cent. commission.

Authors, with few exceptions, whose books are worth publishing, know their value; the authors whose reputation and price have been bolstered up by the elastic imagination of the parasite suddenly find that their books are equally shunned by the publisher as previously by the public. To speak of these bland, mealy-mouthed gentlemen as above extorting sums far beyond 10 per cent. would be incorrect; instances have come to my knowledge where they approach publishers with all kinds of tempting baits to fleece the unpublished author, and moreover it is on record that a new author who received 30% for his first book was compelled to divide equally with the literary godfather; but these instances can be multiplied.

A word now may not be out of place to those who are or may be contemplating the use of this fraternity in approaching publishers, by one who has no interests involved and yet speaks with intimate authority: avoid them if you wish to succeed, as the best houses are closed to them; anything they introduce to a house worth cultivating is returned immediately the label is seen, for now the literary parasite is fully recognized as the grossest abuse of modern innovations.

SPENCER C. BLACKETT.

THE HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

THE latest publication of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, forming the sixth appendix to its Thirteenth Report, includes some brief notices of the Delaval, Ancaster, and Annesley MSS., together with a somewhat detailed account of the important collection of Sir William Fitz-Herbert at Tissington Hall, Derby. The chief interest of the papers calendared here is fairly divided between a small but choice collection of secret intelligence and instructions which passed between the agents of the French Court and the Catholic party at the English Court through the intervention of Coleman, the notorious physician to the Duchess of York, and a contemporary journal of the Jacobite Rebellion during the months of November and December, 1745. There are also preserved here some characteristic letters of General Monk of no special interest. The Coleman correspondence seems to have been formerly in the possession of Lord Justice Treby, and it was probably used in the Popish Plot trials, and somewhat later in Titus Oates's case. Two curious letters are printed here in which Oates expressly asks for the production of this correspondence by Treby, whom he had engaged as counsel for his defence. It would, indeed, be difficult to over-estimate the political effect that must have been produced by the damaging revelations of this correspondence, which has been carefully deciphered and most ably edited in this appendix.

The value of the journal of the Jacobite

Rebellion is in some respects even greater than that of the papers relating to the Popish Plot. This begins with the news of the defeat of Sir John Cope at Prestonpans, but becomes most full and authoritative during the month of December, 1745, when the rebels were marching upon Derby. It is in the form of a series of newsletters, but how these came into the possession of the family at Tissington does not appear here. The information which they furnish as to the movements of the rebels is certainly much more detailed and trustworthy than that which is to be found in the Domestic State Papers.

We are told in the preface to this Report that many later papers in Sir W. Fitz-Herbert's collection have not been described here. There are many students, however, who will be glad to note the fact that some of Lord St. Helen's diplomatic papers are preserved here, and it would be interesting to know whether any of these throw fresh light upon his famous mission to Russia during the reign of Paul I.

The Delaval Papers are, for the most part, concerned with naval affairs in connexion with the distinguished services of Capt. Francis Blake Delaval. There are some further interesting references to the English drama in the middle of last century, which supplement the papers relating to Foote and Garrick described in a previous report on the manuscripts of the Delaval family.

There will be found here amongst the Willoughby Papers, now in the possession of the Earl of Ancaster, several important State papers relating to the affairs of the Low Countries at the end of the sixteenth century; and at p. 247 some curious "Rules for coursing the Hare" in the reign of Charles II., and a receipt by Sir Joshua Reynolds for two family portraits, for which he received sixty guineas.

The last thirty pages of this appendix are occupied by a very curious and interesting diary, formerly kept by the Earl of Anglesey between the years 1671 and 1675, and now in the possession of General Lyttelton Annesley. Few more graphic pictures have appeared of the Court life of those times, stripped of outward splendour and revealed in all its sordid and cruel sensuality. The diary has been judiciously edited by Mr. J. J. Cartwright, who observes that a continuation to the year 1684 is preserved amongst the Additional MSS. at the British Museum.

Literary Gossip.

WE are authorized to state that Mr. Rowland E. Prothero, late Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, has been appointed editor of the *Quarterly Review*, and will commence his duties with the April number.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN & Co. have in the press and will shortly publish a volume of essays by Mr. Goldwin Smith, dealing with the following subjects: 'Social and Industrial Revolution,' 'The Irish Question,' 'Prohibitionism in Canada and the United States,' 'The Empire,' 'Disestablishment,' 'Women's Suffrage,' and 'The Jewish Question.' The professor was expected to arrive in this country a few days ago.

A NEW novel by the author of 'Mark Rutherford' will shortly appear in two volumes under the title of 'Catharine Furze.' It deals with the life and suppressed love of a girl in a Midland town about forty years ago, and it is said to contain a valuable study of an Anglican clergyman.

THE two volumes of Sir Walter Scott's 'Familiar Letters,' to be published next week, contain also many letters from Scott's

notable correspondents; and new facts regarding his relation to many persons will now be made public. Many persons may be interested to learn how friendly were the relations between Scott and Jeffrey long after the establishment of the *Quarterly*, and when Scott is commonly supposed to have refused to be associated either with the *Edinburgh* or its editor.

MR. LESLIE STEPHEN'S lecture on Matthew Arnold at Owens College, Manchester, this week was a great success, some hundreds of people being turned away from the doors. It is to be hoped that Mr. Stephen may be induced to repeat the lecture in London.

It is good news that Mrs. Woods, the author of 'A Village Tragedy,' is busy on a new novel. Much of the scene will be laid in Paris.

MR. OUTRAM TRISTRAM has recently taken over the editorship of the *Whitehall Review*.

MR. THOMAS HARDY has contributed an article to the Christmas number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* on 'Some Ancient Earthworks at Dorchester.' The same issue will contain stories by Mr. W. E. Norris, Mr. Eden Phillpotts, "John Strange Winter," and Mr. G. Gissing; and, among the "new" writers, "Anthony Hope," Max Pemberton, Mrs. Steel, and Miss Savile-Clarke may be mentioned. Mr. Phil Robinson writes on 'The Zoo Revisited,' and Mr. H. W. Massingham on 'Some Impressions of Venice.' The artists include Mr. Caton Woodville, Mr. Phil May, and Mr. Dudley Hardy.

A NEW (?) work by Emerson, entitled 'Natural History of Intellect, and other Papers,' is to be published by Messrs. Routledge & Sons.

MARK TWAIN'S new story will begin in the Christmas number of the *Century*. The title is 'Pudd'nhead Wilson.'

THE Bishop of Ripon's new volume of allegories for children will shortly be published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. under the title 'Between the Lights.'

MR. W. HALE WHITE is about to issue through Mr. T. Fisher Unwin a new edition of his translation, written in conjunction with Miss Stirling, of Spinoza's 'Ethic.' A long and important new preface will be substituted for that printed in the first edition.

THE appointment of Mr. Bywater to the Professorship of Greek at Oxford is creditable to Mr. Gladstone's discernment, and is a suitable promotion for a scholar well worthy to occupy the chair of Gaisford. Mr. Bywater has lately been at work on the text of the 'Poetics.' It is to be hoped that the Professor having more leisure than the Reader, the long-promised edition of Diogenes Laertius may at length see the light. The choice of the Fellows of Balliol meets with general approval. Prof. Caird is a little beyond the age at which Heads of Houses usually begin their reign, but he is more youthful than his years indicate, and by training and sympathies he is well suited to be the Master of Balliol.

THE Rev. Thomas Boyd, M.A., has been appointed Scottish Secretary to the London Religious Tract Society. He is the son of Sir Thomas Boyd, the head of the publishing firm of Oliver & Boyd and formerly Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

THE Abbotsford edition of the Waverley Novels continues to show decadence in value when it comes under the hammer. Last week in London a copy realized 6*l.* 7*s.* only. At the same sale sixty-seven volumes of Sir Walter Scott's works, first editions, were knocked down for 14*l.* 15*s.*

MR. R. DERECHÉF writes on the 11th inst.: "In the favourable notice, in your issue of to-day, of my translation of Victor Cherbuliez's novel 'Le Secret d'un Précepteur,' a doubt is cast upon my nationality, which I hope you will allow me to clear up. I am not, as your reviewer is inclined to think, a Frenchman, but an Englishman by birth. 'Paul Derechéf' is indeed a *nom de guerre*—*mais si peu!* As it was only printed under a misapprehension, it will be an additional favour if, by publishing this letter, you will allow me to give my real signature."

It is proposed to make sundry alterations in the arrangements of the Booksellers' Provident Retreat at Abbots' Langley—more especially to reduce the age for admission of booksellers and booksellers' assistants from sixty to fifty-five years of age, and of their widows from sixty to fifty. A meeting to discuss the proposals has been called for Tuesday at 56, Old Bailey.

THE report to be presented at the annual meeting of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching is satisfactory. The number of courses delivered during the session reached 139, while the number of entries of students was over 13,000. Great advance has been made in the matter of continuity of study. Two-thirds of the courses were arranged in educational sequence, and a large proportion were continued from term to term so as to cover the whole session.

WE are glad to say that Mr. Crosby Lockwood, the well-known publisher, has so far recovered from his recent illness as to return to business. On the other hand, Mr. F. Chapman has been confined to the house by a chill.

MR. ALFRED AUSTIN contributes an introductory sonnet to the first issue of *A Beautiful World*, the quarterly journal which the National Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising is just starting. The number will be mostly devoted to explaining the Society's aims.

LEADER SCOTT has in the press a new book called 'Echoes of Old Florence.' It is intended to awaken dwellers and sojourners in modern Florence to the historical interest of the quaint streets now fast disappearing, and of the old houses that still remain.

THE extracts from English prose writers, which we mentioned last week as being in preparation by Messrs. Henley and Whibley, will be published by Messrs. Methuen.

MR. BLISS CARMAN, the Canadian poet, is going to publish a volume in London. It seems that Mr. Nutt was much struck by Mr. Carman's contributions to this journal, and he has determined to introduce their author to the British public.

MR. MACKENZIE, of Inverness, patriot and publisher, is going to bring out a greatly enlarged edition of his 'History of Clan Mackenzie.'

MR. LEES'S new work, entitled 'Jerusalem Illustrated,' which was printed in Jerusalem, has been confiscated by the Turkish Government.

ON the 8th inst. Dr. W. Wynn Westcott was installed as Master of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Freemasons, in succession to Prof. T. Hayter Lewis. The treasurer, Mr. Walter Besant, remains in office. The Inner Circle of this lodge, consisting of its full members, has not yet reached its maximum strength, which is limited to forty. But the Outer Circle, composed of subscribers to its printed *Transactions*, already exceeds sixteen hundred.

PROF. R. ROEPFEL, who was the author of several valuable works on Polish history, died on the 4th inst., at Breslau, on his eighty-sixth birthday.

THE Parliamentary Papers this week include Labour Commission, Employment of Women, Reports (2*s.* 10*d.*); Railway Rates and Charges, Evidence, &c., to First Report (4*s.* 3*d.*); and Counties, England and Wales, Return showing the Administrative Counties, the Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities, Poor Law Unions, &c. (6*d.*).

SCIENCE

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

BROOKS'S comet (c, 1893) is still more than three-quarters as bright as when it was discovered. It continues to move in a north-easterly direction, and next week passes through the constellation Canes Venatici.

Circular No. 37 of the Wolsingham Observatory (Rev. T. E. Espin) announces that an anonymous red star, observed of the ninth magnitude on August 21st, is variable, and has diminished in brightness to the eleventh magnitude. Its place for 1855 is R.A. 19^h 7^m 16^s, N.P.D. 64° 14'.

Dr. Charles Lane Poor has published in Nos. 302-3 of the *Astronomical Journal* the results of an elaborate investigation of the orbit of Comet 1889 V. (discovered by Mr. Brooks at Geneva, N.Y., on July 7th of that year) and the interesting question of its conjectured identity with Lexell's "lost comet" of 1770. Brooks's comet had been thrown into its present orbit by a remarkably close approach to Jupiter in 1886, which probably brought it within a distance from the planet smaller than the diameter of the latter. It is well known that Lexell's comet also underwent a very close approach to Jupiter in 1779, which changed the form of its orbit, and prevented its being seen since 1770, unless we suppose that a reversal of the disturbance then produced took place in 1886, and the comet is identical with Brooks's of 1889, now moving in an elliptic orbit with the short period of about seven years. A criterion formulated by M. Tisserand, now Director of the Paris Observatory, enables Dr. Poor to show that this identity is highly improbable unless some great disturbance had been produced in the comet's orbit between 1779 and 1886 by another planet, which could only be Saturn, and it appears that no approach to that body took place sufficiently close to produce such effect. The general result, then, of Dr. Poor's paper is that it is not probable that Brooks's comet of 1889 is identical with Lexell's of 1770; but he cautiously suggests that definite conclusion on the subject should be postponed until the expected reappearance of the former in 1896. Mean time, he promises shortly to publish another paper on the details of the path of the comet whilst passing near and within the

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Jovian system. In this he proposes to discuss the questions of the possible disruption of the comet, and of the formation of a new satellite of Jupiter by the planet's drawing permanently into its system a portion of the disintegrated comet.

SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 13.—Mr. C. R. Markham, President, in the chair.—The President delivered his opening address, 'The Present Standpoint of Geography.'

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 8.—Mr. W. H. Hudleston, President, in the chair.—Messrs. L. H. Cooke and R. A. S. Redmayne were elected Fellows; and M. K. Bignaux, Boulogne, a Foreign Correspondent of the Society.—The following communications were read: 'The Geology of Bathurst, New South Wales,' by Mr. W. J. G. Ross; 'The Geology of Matto Grosso (particularly of the region drained by the Upper Paraguay),' by Mr. J. W. Evans; and 'Notes on the Occurrence of Mammoth Remains in the Yukon District of Canada and in Alaska,' by Dr. G. M. Dawson.

LINNEAN.—Nov. 2.—Prof. Stewart, President, in the chair.—Messrs. W. G. Axford and C. H. Nicholls were admitted Fellows, and Mr. H. M. Bernard was elected.—The Secretary read a list of the donations to the library since the last meeting.—Lady Arthur Russell has presented a collection of 600 engraved portraits of naturalists to the Society in the name of her late husband.—Referring to the deaths of Fellows of the Society which had occurred since the last meeting, the President alluded especially to the Rev. L. Blomefield, whose connexion with the Society, extending over seventy years, had recently been made the subject of a congratulatory address; to Mr. F. Pascoe, the distinguished entomologist; and to Mr. G. Brook, whose lamented decease had caused the vacancy in the Council which they now had to fill.—The ballot having been taken for the election of a new Councillor in the place of Mr. G. Brook deceased, Mr. H. Seeborn was declared to have been elected.—Mr. G. Murray exhibited and made remarks on a series of seaweeds mounted on lantern slides, some of which were new to Great Britain. He also showed some specially prepared tins which were recommended for collecting purposes.—Mr. Holmes showed some new British marine Algae and made remarks on their affinities.—Dr. Prior exhibited the fully developed fruit of *Pyrus japonica* from Rogate, Sussex, seldom seen, although the plant is common enough, and alluded to its use as a conserve if it could be obtained in sufficient quantity.—Mr. S. Moore read a paper on the phanerogamic botany of an expedition to Mato Grosso, upon which he acted as botanist. Starting from Cuyaba, the expedition first visited the Chapada Plateau to the east of that city, where many plants were collected. Thence a journey was made to the new settlement of Santa Cruz on the Paraguay, about half-way between Villa Maria and Diamantino. The flora here is of mixed character, nearly 37 per cent. of the plants being common to tropical South America, upwards of 27 per cent. occurring in the North Brazil Guiana province of Engler, with 20½ per cent. common to that province and the South Brazilian, and only 13 per cent. of South Brazilian types. From Santa Cruz a party penetrated through the primeval forest lying to the north, and reached the Serra de Sapirapuan. The forest flora is markedly Amazonian in character, nearly 50 per cent. of the plants being natives of Amazonia or of the neighbouring countries within the North Brazil Guiana province or related thereto, while the proportion of species common to tropical America falls to rather more than 28 per cent., the South Brazilian element being present only to the extent of 9½ per cent. Returning to Santa Cruz, the Rio Braciato was partly explored, and the Paraguay ascended to the neighbourhood of Diamantino. The party then came down the Paraguay to the Corumba, where many plants of interest were found. The expedition was partly disbanded at Asuncion. Among the Amazonian plants found at Santa Cruz or in the forest may be mentioned *Randia ringiana*, *Bertiera guianensis*, the loranthid *Oryctanthus ruficaulis*, *Cattleya superba*, *Epidendrum inatophyllum*, *Rodriguezia secundata*, &c. The collections comprise close upon 700 species, of which rather more than 200 were considered to be new, and referable to eight new genera. The southward extension of the Amazonian flora to a latitude well within the Paraguay river system was regarded as a noteworthy feature.—On behalf of Mr. G. M. Thomson, of Dunedin, N.Z., Mr. W. P. Sladen read a paper on a new freshwater schizopod from Tasmania, illustrating his remarks with graphic sketches on the blackboard to indicate its affinities and differences.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Nov. 1.—Mr. E. Green in the chair.—Mr. H. S. Cowper exhibited a candlestick of brass, enamelled in blue, green, and white, of sixteenth century work. An engraving of this candlestick appears in the nineteenth volume of the *Journal*, where it is attributed to English workmanship.—Mr. E. Peacock sent a paper 'On immuring Nuns who have broken their Vows,' in which he contended that no such cruel punishment existed in the Middle Ages, and that the popular belief was entirely drawn from Sir Walter Scott.—In the subsequent discussion Mr. Brown disagreed with the writer and upheld the theory as one probably introduced from the East.—Mr. E. Green read a paper 'On the Beginnings of Lithography,' tracing the art from its discovery down to the present time, and illustrating its progress by the exhibition of various prints.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 7.—Sir W. H. Flower, President, in the chair.—The Secretary read a report on the additions to the menagerie during June, July, August, and September. Among these special attention was called to four South Island robins (*Miro albigens*) from New Zealand; an adult male of Stairs's monkey (*Cercopithecus stairsi*); a family of six European beavers (*Castor fiber*), consisting of a male, a female, and four young ones, from the Lower Rhine; a young Korean sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus brachypterus*), obtained from Korea; and a fine specimen of the great grebe of Antarctic America (*Echmophorus major*) in full plumage. The Secretary also exhibited a living example of the Goliath beetle (*Goliathus druryi*), from the Society's insect-house.—Mr. Sclater read some notes on the most interesting animals he had seen during a recent visit to the Zoological Gardens of Stuttgart, Frankfurt, and Cologne.—An extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. J. G. Millais, relating his endeavours to obtain specimens of the white rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*) in Mashanaland.—A communication was read from Babu Ram Braham Sanyal, describing a hybrid monkey of the genus *Semnopithecus*, born in the Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.—Mr. Tegetmeier exhibited a specimen of a hybrid grouse between the blackgame (*Tetrao tetrix*) and the red grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*).—Mr. Boulenger read a paper 'On a Nothosaurian Reptile from the Trias of Lombardy, apparently referable to *Lariosaurus*.' His description was based on a small, nearly perfect specimen from Mount Perledo, showing the ventral aspect, belonging to the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt-on-Main, which had been entrusted to him by the directors of that institution, and was exhibited before the meeting. The author pointed out the presence of a series of minute teeth on the pterygoid bones, and of an entepicondylar (ulnar) foramen in the humerus. The number of phalanges was 2, 3, 4, 4, 3 in the manus, and 2, 3, 4, 5, 4 in the pes; the terminal phalanx was flattened and obtusely pointed, not claw-shaped. In discussing the affinities of this reptile the author stated that the *Lariosaurus* described by Diecke did not appear to be generically distinguishable from the *Neusticosaurus* of Seeley, which he referred to the *Lariosauridae*, regarding that family as intermediate between the *Mesosauridae* and the *Nothosauridae*, though nearer the latter. The *Mesosauridae*, in his opinion, formed one sub-order, the *Lariosauridae* and *Nothosauridae* together a second sub-order, of the order *Plesiosauria*.—Dr. A. Günther read a second report on specimens of reptiles, batrachians, and fishes transmitted by Mr. H. H. Johnston from British Central Africa, and read descriptions of some new reptiles and fishes of which specimens had been obtained on Lake Tanganyika.—Mr. E. A. Smith gave an account of a collection of land and freshwater shells transmitted by Mr. H. H. Johnston from British Central Africa. The specimens in this collection, obtained by Mr. R. Crawshaw from Lake Mweru, were almost all new to science. He also read descriptions of two new species of shells of the genus *Ennea*.—A communication was read from Dr. A. G. Butler, containing an account of two collections of Lepidoptera sent by Mr. H. H. Johnston from British Central Africa,—from Mr. E. C. Reed, containing a list of the Chilian Hymenoptera of the family *Odyneridae*, with descriptions of some new species,—and from Prof. Newton, containing the description of a new species of bird of the genus *Drepanis*, discovered by Mr. R. C. L. Perkins in the island of Molokai, Sandwich Islands.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 8.—Capt. H. J. Elwes, President, in the chair.—Messrs. H. J. Turner, F. W. Ulrich, and J. C. Webb were elected Fellows.—Mr. F. Merrifield exhibited some low-temperature forms of *Vanessa atalanta*, artificially produced, which showed a great reduction in the area of the scarlet bands on the wings, and a great increase in the area of the white and bluish markings.—Prof. E. B. Poulton described and illustrated, by means of a

map, a simple method for showing the geographical distribution of insects in collections. Below the name-label of the genus and of each species were placed coloured slips of such a size as to be distinctly visible at a distance, and the colours, with one exception, corresponded with those made use of in the map at the beginning of vol. i. of Dr. A. R. Wallace's 'Geographical Distribution of Animals.' The exception referred to was the Palearctic Region, which was coloured blue, instead of pale brown as in the original. Framed maps of the same kind, and coloured in the same way as the one he exhibited, were to be placed in museums, so as to be readily seen from various groups of cabinets. In these maps the names of the regions, and numbers of the sub-regions, were distinctly printed, so that they could be read at a considerable distance. Prof. Poulton added that the method he had described was being gradually introduced into the Hope Collections at Oxford.—Mr. McLachlan stated that a somewhat similar plan to that described by Prof. Poulton for showing the geographical distribution of insects had been adopted in the Brussels Museum by M. F. de Borre.—Dr. D. Sharp, the President, Prof. Poulton, and Messrs. W. F. H. Blandford, C. J. Gahan, C. O. Waterhouse, and O. Salvin continued the discussion.—Dr. Sharp read the following extract from Dr. Livingstone's 'Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambesi,' and stated that he was indebted to Mr. Gahan for calling his attention to it: "We tried to sleep one rainy night in a native hut, but could not because of attacks by the fighting battalions of a very small species of Formica, not more than one-sixteenth of an inch in length. It soon became obvious that they were under regular discipline, and even attempting to carry out the skillful plans and stratagem of some eminent leader. Our hands and necks were the first objects of attack. Large bodies of these little pests were massed in silence round the point to be assaulted. We could hear the sharp, shrill word of command two or three times repeated, though, until then, we had not believed in the vocal power of an ant; the instant after we felt the storming hosts over head and neck."—Prof. Poulton read a paper entitled 'On the Sexes of Larvæ emerging from the Successively Laid Eggs of *Smerinthus populi*.'—Mr. Merrifield, Dr. Sharp, and the President took part in the discussion which ensued.—Mr. W. L. Distant communicated a paper entitled 'On the Homopterous Genus *Pyrops*, with Descriptions of Two New Species.'—The President read a paper, written by himself and Mr. J. Edwards, entitled 'A Revision of the Genus *Eneis*,' which he characterized as the most cold-loving genus of butterflies. He also exhibited his complete collection of species of this genus, which was said to be the finest in the world.—A long discussion ensued, in which Prof. Poulton, Rev. Dr. Walker, Dr. Sharp, and Messrs. McLachlan, Salvin, Bethune-Baker, Kirby, Merrifield, Barrett, Blandford, and Jacoby took part.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 14.—Sir R. Rawlinson, V.P., in the chair.—Owing to the absence, from ill health, of the lately-elected President, Mr. A. Giles, the address prepared by him for delivery on this occasion was read by the secretary.—After the reading of the address the premiums and prizes awarded last session were formally presented to the recipients.

MATHEMATICAL.—Nov. 9.—Mr. A. B. Kempe, President, in the chair.—The resolution for the incorporation of the Society and the Council-nomination list (see *Athen.* No. 3444) were carried.—The President gave a brief sketch of the life and work of the late Mr. W. S. B. Woolhouse, and subsequently spoke upon Prof. F. Klein's mathematical work in connexion with the award, by the Council in June last, of the De Morgan Medal to that gentleman.—In the regretted absence of Prof. Klein the medal was committed to the charge of Prof. Greenhill and Dr. Forsyth, both of whom suitably responded to the President's address.—The following communications were made: 'Mechanical Solution of an Old Geometrical Problem,' by Prof. L. J. Rogers; 'The Stability of certain Vortex Motions,' by Mr. Love; 'Cyclotomic Quartics,' by Prof. Mathews; 'On the Application of Elliptic Functions to the Curve of Intersection of Two Quadrics,' by Mr. J. E. Campbell; and 'Notes on the Theory of Groups of Finite Order,' by Prof. W. Burnside.—Prof. Hudson showed and explained some mechanical constructions (by his son) for the parabola, hyperbola, cubical parabola, and semicubical parabola.

PHYSICAL.—Nov. 10.—Prof. A. W. Rücker, President, in the chair.—Mr. R. S. Cole was elected a Member.—A paper 'On the Separation of Three Liquids by Fractional Distillation,' by Prof. F. R. Barrett, Mr. G. L. Thomas, and Prof. S. Young, was

quarters, and in the Café Greco he met Turner and Fenimore Cooper, and he also fell in with Thorwaldsen, Coleridge, and Washington Irving, men of his own age, with whom, especially the latter two, he became thoroughly intimate.

Several anecdotes of Coleridge which we have not met with before are to be found in this book. Among them is the following:—

"In conversation upon the comparative beauties of Greek and Gothic styles, he once said to Allston, 'Grecian architecture is a thing, but the Gothic is an idea.' And then added, 'I can make a Grecian temple of two brickbats and a cocked-hat.'"

The graceful testimony of Washington Irving, between whom and Allston there was not only intimacy, but a considerable similarity of mind, is repeated here from his well-known writings. We need not do more than refer to the first account of the design for that huge picture (12 ft. by 17 ft.) of 'Belshazzar's Feast,' which haunted Allston to the end of his life. So much as there was of it greatly impressed Irving, and, what is of more consequence in such a case, Leslie, whose admiration of it was emphatically expressed. Another testimony of value, not before published, occurs in a letter from Coleridge to Allston, which is decidedly characteristic:—

"To you, and you alone, since I have left England, I have felt more [affection], and had I not known the Wordsworths, should have esteemed and loved you first and most; and, as it is, next to them I love and honour you. Heaven knows, a part of such a wreck as my head and heart is scarcely worth your acceptance."

This letter is dated Leghorn, June 17th, 1806, and contains, besides anecdotes, much lamentation about his depressed condition, "a manifest stroke of palsy," and "violent attempts to vomit, each effort accompanied by involuntary and terrific screams." When Coleridge reached London after throwing his papers overboard, he, much to the disgust of Northcote, vigorously praised his Roman friend. Allston left Italy for Boston (U.S.) in 1809, and there married Ann, daughter of W. Channing, granddaughter of William Ellery, who signed the Declaration of Independence. Remaining in the Athens of the United States, he at this time painted some noteworthy portraits. In 1811 he was in England again, and soon came into contact with Leslie, who admitted himself to be a pupil of West and Allston; and in 1814, when the British Institution awarded to Allston its prize of 200 guineas for an historical picture, West said, "He has begun where most of us leave off." Allston had hardly settled in London when his wife died, and he needed all the kindnesses of his friends; conspicuous among these was a long and affectionate letter of consolation from Coleridge, which is here quoted at length, and contains some, for that time, wonderfully liberal views as to free trade and literary copyright:—

"With regard to my MSS. I had no other wish, and formed no higher expectation than this: that a copyright, as exclusive as the American law permits, should be vested in some one bookseller who should have the copy in time enough to get it printed in America two months before the work could arrive from England; that is to say, have it published in

Boston or Philadelphia at the same time as its first publication in England, and that the bookseller, in return for the copy and copyright, should secure to me some portion, say one-third, of his net profits. If this can be done, I shall think it worth while to continue the transcription, though the ultimate profits should be but 20*l.* to 0*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* One volume of 900 pages octavo contains the history of my life and opinions; the second my poems, composed since 1795, i.e. those not in my volume of 'Poems' already printed."

A second prize from the British Institution signalized 1817 in Allston's annals. In the next year a sort of home-sickness seems to have induced him to return to the States, to leave them no more. This was undoubtedly the greatest mistake he ever made, and something besides the nostalgia Dr. Flagg alleges must have impelled Allston to quit a metropolis thronged with patrons of art (as Allston had abundant reason to know), and in many other ways favourable to his success. Immediately after his departure, he was elected an Associate of the Academy, and, as Leslie assured him, he would soon obtain the higher grade if he returned. This might, indeed, have happened if, without residing here, he had continued to contribute to Somerset House. The Academy was not sparing of its honours to an artist who exhibited in its galleries only nine pictures, three of which were trivial.

The greater portion, and by much the more interesting part, of the remainder of this volume, which deals with the career—anything but prosperous—of Allston in the States, is composed of correspondence between him and Leslie and other friends. Leslie's letters are chiefly acceptable on account of the writer, and the news of London artists and their pictures that they contain.

The book, which was evidently intended for Transatlantic readers, is not disfigured by the eccentricities of American spelling, and, though extremely interesting, would have been more readable if a great number of unimportant details had been omitted; and although Dr. Flagg's care in preparing it is creditable to him, he has forgotten that in the perspective of time the place of Allston is not nearly so lofty as it, naturally enough, appears to his relations, and that some small matters, such as the spelling of a few names and revision of a date or two, are yet needed. Still, it is a welcome addition to the library of artistic biographies with which the world has been favoured lately.

THE ROMAN TEMPLE AT KESTON.

Hayes Common, Kent, Nov. 1, 1893.

MR. G. R. WRIGHT'S letter in your issue of the 28th ult. and a knowledge of this interesting relic for many years led me again to the spot, and I was at once convinced that he had not consulted Mr. G. R. Corner's paper in *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvi., wherein plans and views are given of Messrs. Kempe and Croker's excavations of the temple in 1828, and of Mr. Corner's work in 1854, when foundations of villas in the adjacent fields were discovered. Mr. Wright gives a plan showing two *parallel* buttresses on the west side, whereas these and four others radiate from the centre of the circle.

The soil on the site of the supposed apse figured in Mr. Wright's plan appeared undisturbed, except in two small spots such as might

be made with a pocket-knife; and a 12 in. steel driven into many places, carefully measured, failed to find any hard substance yesterday. Mr. Crofton Croker says: "For 2 ft. 9 in. from the foundation outside it was coated with the cement called by Vitruvius *arenatum*. On this was laid a coat of stucco with a very smooth surface and covered with a dark red pigment.....Mr. Kempe considered that a section should be made across the building to the foundations. A cut was made 5 ft. deep to the foundation on the natural chalk," &c.

The above facts show that both the exterior and interior were excavated, and if an apse existed it must have come to the notice of the explorers. No doubt the theory of a door facing the rising sun is the true explanation of this gap in the wall.

Mr. Wright will find on referring to the authority quoted that no coffins were found in the temple itself, but in separate graves lying in line to the north-west. There is no doubt much more to be unearthed in this district, the presumed site of the "Noviomagus" of the 'Itinerary' of Antoninus.

DANIEL W. KETTLE.

FINC-FRI Gossipy.

IT is with pleasure we read that Mr. T. Sidney Cooper, the *doyen* of the Royal Academy, has so far recovered from the bronchitis which has long and severely tried him as to be pronounced out of danger. On the 26th of September last the venerable painter was ninety years of age.

ONE of the most interesting commissions ever given to a painter, and one involving difficulties of an unusual kind, was that accepted from the late firm of Dickinsons, of New Bond Street, by Mr. Madox Brown, and carried out by him with a large amount of success. They conceived the idea that it would be worth while to employ an artist to compile, so to say, from the old and trustworthy, but very stiff and dull likenesses of the poet, such as the Stratford bust and the Chandos portrait, a new portrait of Shakspeare, and have it engraved. Messrs. Dickinson applied to Madox Brown because such a task was certain to be after his own heart. The painter set to work, and with great diligence and after several experiments produced the half-length, life-size figure which is now in the possession of Mr. Lowes Dickinson, and has never, we believe, been exhibited, although it is fine as a picture as well as suggestive as a portrait, and a very subtle study of character. Brown, of course, relied chiefly on the Stratford bust, and corrected the obvious discrepancies of the features, such as the abnormally long upper lip, the stiff eyelids, and the stare of the eyes. He wisely imparted to the standing figure something of the formality of a Van Somers, or rather of the earlier Elizabethan painters, and gave touches of warmth and geniality to the grave and comely face, and vivacity to the thoughtful eyes. The dress is deep black, embroidered in the same colour, and relieved by a wide white collar. The right hand rests on a table.

THE Vestry of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields is to be congratulated on refusing one of those propositions which illustrate the restlessness recent changes in our municipal arrangements have called into play. The parish is rich in streets to which historic associations, especially those which are literary and artistic, cling closely. Among street names few are, on this account, better worth preserving than that of Orange Street, Leicester Square, which some one coolly proposed to change simply because in Bloomsbury is another Orange Street. The Vestry of St. Giles's, Bloomsbury, with equal good sense, has likewise refused to sanction another iconoclastic scheme, which would, by renaming part of High Holborn, and renumbering the houses there, have

caused infinite trouble. To such an extent has the whim for renumbering the houses in streets been carried, that all the artistic, literary, and political associations of the region between Tottenham Court Road and Portland Place, Oxford Street and Euston Road, have been not simply abolished, but muddled and confused in the most regrettable manner. The renumbering of Oxford Street was desirable on account of the confusion arising from the repetition of house-numbers in a thoroughfare which, built up as it was of half a dozen sections originally independent, and being always a place of trade, and not of residence, had no historic associations worth speaking of. On the other hand, the renumbering of Newman Street, Oxford Street, was deplorable, because half the houses there were once occupied by artists of distinction, from Benjamin West to Rossetti. The name of Orange Street, Leicester Square, is said to be due to the colour of part of the royal stables which once stood there, while Green Street was called after another part of that establishment. This green and orange certainly had nothing to do with Hibernian politics, as some have said.

At Messrs. Agnew's Old Bond Street Galleries may be seen a capital collection of seventy-two water-colour drawings made in Egypt by Mr. Wilfrid Ball, originally well known by his clever and neat etchings of river landscapes. Not only are these examples marked by wealth of tone and brilliant in their strength, but they are solid, firm, and deftly drawn. We commend especially 'Libyan Hills, opposite Luxor' (No. 6); 'Bedwan Camp' (8); 'After Sunset, Assouan' (14); 'Evening Light on Mokattam Hills' (18); the elaborate and bright 'Luxor' (23); 'Sunset on the Nile' (30); 'Afterglow near Abydos,' a noteworthy study (53); 'Thebes, from Luxor' (54); and 'The Sphinx, Morning' (61).

It is proposed to form, some time in the spring, a select collection of the more important works of Ford Madox Brown, and to exhibit them in London.

THE monks of Mount Athos have undertaken to produce a pictorial work illustrating the history, architecture, art, and social life of their unique settlement. All the monasteries have combined for this purpose, but the editor and author of the accompanying (Greek) text will be the monk George of St. Paul's Monastery, whose intelligence and courtesy are well known to the few privileged travellers who have visited the Sacred Mount. The book will be published at Constantinople; its price to subscribers in advance is twenty francs, afterwards twenty-three or twenty-eight according to the binding, and sundry London booksellers will receive subscriptions. There will be 130 phototypes and some woodcuts, with 150 pages of quarto text. Unfortunately no photograph can reproduce the beauty of the landscape, but the paintings and the architecture will be adequately given, and will be of the highest interest.

DR. BORTI, the Director of the Alexandria Museum, is on the point of issuing the first catalogue of the contents of the museum under his charge. In the department of epigraphy the work will probably be of considerable interest to students. Since our last mention of the Museum it has been enlarged by the addition of two rooms, formerly occupied by the municipal library, which have been generously surrendered by the town council.

FROM advices received from Damascus it is to be feared that the destruction of the Great Mosque is complete. The fire arose from the carelessness of the workmen engaged in repairing the roof, and although the garrison of four thousand men were at once ordered to the spot, their efforts to extinguish the flames were powerless, on account of the violent and, for the time of year, exceptional storm of wind which prevailed. We hear that already it is proposed at Damascus to appropriate the columns of the

temple at Baalbec for the service of the new mosque. This proceeding, it is well known, was habitual with the early Arab conquerors, but will scarcely be permitted at the present day.

MUSIC

'I MEDICI' AT MILAN.

SIGNOR LEONCAVALLO has been attacked with that most dangerous of all maladies to the artist, ambition. He has already made a wide reputation with 'Pagliacci,' a work in which there was apparent a distinctly brilliant ability. Unfortunately, he has not been able to content himself in that domain of music to which he was obviously called, and he has therefore determined to write a gigantic trilogy. 'Crepusculum' is to be its general title, which the composer has carefully explained he did not imitate from Wagner; and the purpose of the work is to give musical expression to the great panorama of the Italian Renaissance. The three parts of the trilogy are to be called respectively 'I Medici,' 'Savonarola,' and 'Cesare Borgia.' It is the first of these which has just been given in Milan, and it is not unfair to say that if the others resemble this in design and method, Signor Leoncavallo will be well advised to subject them to considerable revision before he gives them to the world. For the truth may be told at once: 'I Medici' is not the work we had the right to expect from the composer of 'Pagliacci.' Whatever were the musical shortcomings of that work, it had at least the semblance of sincerity, and its drama was strong and stirring. It is no pleasant task, therefore, to have to say that the libretto of 'I Medici' is not good, and that the music, from whatever point of view it be regarded, other than that of mere dynamic effect, adds nothing at all to its composer's reputation.

The particular members of the Medicean family who are dealt with in the present work are Giuliano and Lorenzo; but the composer has given us only the most superficial portraits of each. With Simonetta Catanei and Fioretta de' Gori, they are nothing but names; characterization there is none. The conspirators are not more real, and it is only with the third act that we are presented with any approach to dramatic situation. When it is said that the situation is scarcely more than a reversion to the second and fourth acts of 'Rigoletto,' as far as its mechanism is concerned, it will be seen that Signor Leoncavallo's dramatic methods are somewhat antique. The day has surely passed when an audience can be convinced by a septet in which four conspirators, a pair of lovers, and a discarded mistress stand side by side at the footlights, each group pretending to be unconscious of any other's presence.

The libretto, then, calls for no further consideration, and the music might not unfairly be dismissed with equal curtness, for not the most generous critic can find here the evidence of a new musical identity. We are given page after page of undeniably fine writing, full of a consummate knowledge of the resources of the orchestra and the works of other composers, the unfortunate thing being that Signor Leoncavallo has, possibly without knowing it, indulged in the most curious series of "recollections"—to use the mildest expression—with the result that, whatever other question of his abilities may be raised, he at least proves himself an unusually profound student of the scores of Wagner. This apart, it cannot be felt that he has been prompted in writing 'I Medici' by any worthier aim than the desire to astonish his hearers by multiplicity of effects. Nothing is left untried that can possibly attract the ear, and in the end the apparent object is defeated, for the attention and interest are literally worried into insensibility. These are hard say-

ings, but they are not said lightly. No one can listen honestly to this work without a keen regret that it should have been written by a musician from whom we had hoped so much. He is still a young man, and his ability is unquestioned; it may, therefore, be hoped that he may speedily return to the path which he had already travelled so far and so successfully.

The performance at the Dal Verme was remarkable chiefly for the excellence of the orchestra under Signor Ferrari, and the efforts of Signor Tamagno as Giuliano. Of this performer nothing more than the display of his marvellous voice is usually expected, and on the occasion in question nothing more was received. The audience, however, was roused to intense enthusiasm by all that he did, and the composer was called, in the Italian fashion, countless times. S. R. T.

Musical Gossip.

WE regret to learn the withdrawal of Mr. F. H. Cowen's opera 'Signa,' after its successful production at the Dal Verme Theatre, Milan, on Sunday last. Into the circumstances which led to this untoward sequel there is no occasion to enter, and criticism of the work may well be deferred until it is presented in London, which, according to present arrangements, will be at Covent Garden next season. Meanwhile it may be said that there is tolerable unanimity in favour of 'Signa,' being its composer's operatic masterpiece.

WE have received the prospectus of the eleventh season of the Stock Exchange Orchestral Society and male-voice choir. Concerts will be given at St. James's Hall on December 19th, February 20th, and April 24th, the programme of the first including one of Haydn's symphonies, a Violin Concerto by M. Tivadar Nachéz, an Orchestral Suite "in the olden style," by Sir Herbert Oakeley, and a Dramatic Prelude by Mr. G. E. B. Street; of the second, Beethoven's Symphony in B flat, No. 4, a concert overture, 'Herondane,' by Mr. Learmont Drysdale, and Mr. Hamish MacCunn's orchestral ballad 'The Ship of the Fiend'; and of the third, Mozart's Symphony in E flat, Sir R. P. Stewart's Overture to 'The Eve of St. John,' and Sir Arthur Sullivan's incidental music to 'The Tempest.' Mr. George Kitchin remains the conductor of the society, and he could not be replaced with advantage.

THE programme of last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert commenced with Mr. Granville Bantock's overture 'The Fire Worshippers,' the first number of a dramatic cantata founded on Moore's poem. We spoke favourably of the piece when it was performed at a concert of the Royal Academy of Music in December, 1890 (*Athen.* No. 3295), and since that time Mr. Bantock has displayed considerable industry as a composer. To musical amateurs generally he is best known by his one-act and strongly Wagnerian opera 'Cædmar,' which was produced at the Olympic Theatre under Signor Lago's direction in October last year. Miss Beatrice Langley, a young violinist, played Max Bruch's Concerto in A minor, No. 1, with neatness, if not with power. Her tone is small, but that may be due to her instrument. The Symphony was Goetz's lovely work in F; and the vocalist was Mr. Plunket Greene, who introduced two more Irish songs, 'The Foggy Dew' and 'Patrick Sarsfield,' arranged and cleverly orchestrated by Prof. Villiers Stanford.

AN invitation concert was given at the Royal Academy of Music on Saturday evening last week, the performers being principally the most recently appointed professors at the institution. The programme was interesting in its way, including Señor Albanesi's piquant Pianoforte Sonata in A flat, played by the composer; various organ pieces by Bach, Widor, and Guilmant, admirably rendered by Mr. W.

Stevenson Hoyte; violin solos contributed by Mr. Émile Sauret; and violoncello solos allotted to Mr. Ernest de Munck. Madame Mary Davies, many years ago a student at the Royal Academy, introduced three 'Mélodies populaires de Basse Bretagne,' compiled by M. Bourgault-Ducoudray; and Mr. E. Turner Lloyd, son of Mr. Edward Lloyd, made a favourable impression in songs by Lassen, Grieg, and Bohm.

BRIEF record will suffice concerning the Popular Concerts on Saturday and Monday last. On the former occasion the programme included Beethoven's Quartet in F minor, Op. 95; Schubert's Pianoforte Trio in B flat, Op. 99; Schumann's Sonata in G minor, Op. 22, played by Herr Schönberger; and three of Dr. MacKenzie's violin pieces. Mr. William Nicholl was acceptable in songs by Brahms and Grieg.

On Monday Signor Piatti made his first appearance this season, and played in his best manner three movements of his Violoncello Sonata in C, Op. 28. The concerted works were Schubert's Quartet in D minor and Schumann's Pianoforte Trio in D minor, Op. 63. Miss Fanny Davies rendered eight of Chopin's 'Préludes,' only one of which, the familiar example in D flat, had been introduced at these concerts. Miss Amy Sherwin was the vocalist.

A PROGRAMME of the usual pattern was presented at the second of Señor Sarasate's concerts of violin and pianoforte music this season at St. James's Hall on Monday afternoon. As on many former occasions, the Spanish violinist was associated with Madame Berthe Marx, the concerted works being Schumann's Sonata in D minor, Op. 121; Émile Bernard's melodious suite in the same key; and Raff's showy piece 'La Fée d'Amour.' Madame Marx contributed as her solo Liszt's rhapsodical Fantasia on 'Don Juan,' and Señor Sarasate his own 'Zigeunerweisen.' The ensemble left nothing to be desired, and no more than this need be said.

M. SEVADJIAN, who gave a pianoforte recital in the Princes' Hall on Wednesday evening, is an executant of no mean ability, but he seemed far more at home in music requiring quiet expression and delicacy than in works needing vigorous treatment. In the latter the phrasing was rough and blurred, but he played an Adagio of Mozart, a Nocturne of Field, and some minor pieces by Chopin with much feeling.

THE prize of ten guineas offered by the Bristol Orpheus Glee Society to students of the Royal Academy of Music for the composition of a glee has been awarded to Mr. Charles Macpherson, his piece being a setting in five parts of "There sits a bird on yonder tree," from the 'Ingoldsby Legends.'

A CONSIDERABLE time ago we announced the approaching production of Sir Arthur Sullivan's opera 'Ivanhoe' at Berlin by desire of the German Emperor. Circumstances occurred to delay the performance, but it will shortly take place, and meanwhile the composer has taken the opportunity to revise his score, a considerable portion being practically rewritten.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the production of Balfe's opera 'The Bohemian Girl' will be celebrated on the 27th inst. not only by a special performance at Drury Lane under the management of Sir Augustus Harris, but by the Carl Rosa Company at Edinburgh. Mlle. Zélie de Lussan will be the Arline, and Mr. Barton McGuckin the Thaddeus, and it is interesting to note that both these artists appeared for the first time on the operatic stage in the characters respectively named.

THE chamber concert at the Royal College of Music on Thursday evening last week included Beethoven's 'Kreutzer' Sonata for pianoforte and violin, played by Mr. Charles Jacoby and Miss Maud Branwell; and Schumann's Quartet in A minor, Op. 41, No. 1, the executants in which were Miss Lilian Wright,

Miss Kathleen Thomas, Mr. William Ackroyd, and Mr. Paul Ludwig.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

- Mon. Royal Academy of Music Students' Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.
- Popular Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
- Tues. Messrs. Hann's Chamber Concert, 8, Brixton Hall.
- Mlle. Thérèse Gerardy's Pianoforte Recital, 3, St. James's Hall.
- Police Orphanage Concert, 8, Steinway Hall.
- Wed. M. Silioti's Pianoforte Recital, 8, St. James's Hall.
- London Symphony Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
- Mr. Aldebert C. Allen's Flute Recital, 8, 15, Steinway Hall.
- THURS. Royal College of Music Concert, 7, 30, Alexandra House.
- Royal Choral Society, 'Israel in Egypt,' 8, Albert Hall.
- Mr. Mead's Concert, 8, Princes' Hall.
- FRI. Royal Artillery Band Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.
- Hampstead Popular Concert, 3, Vestry Hall, Haverstock Hill.
- SAT. Crystal Palace Concert, 3.
- Popular Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

DALY'S.—'The School for Scandal.' Rearranged by Augustin Daly.
TOOLE'S.—'Mrs. Othello,' a Farce in Three Acts. By Fred Leslie and Arthur Shirley.
TERRY'S.—'Gudgeons,' a Comedy in Three Acts. By Louis N. Parker and Thornton Clark.
TRAFALGAR SQUARE.—'Tom, Dick, and Harry,' a Farce in Three Acts. By Mrs. R. Pacheco.
VAUDEVILLE.—'A Screw Loose,' a Farce in Three Acts. By Mark Melford.

So long as Mr. Daly confines himself to arranging the scenes of Sheridan's masterpiece so as to suit them to the exigencies of the modern stage, no fault need be found. When he proceeds, in a spirit of American squeamishness, to "cover the legs of a piano," it is time to protest. Almost incredible are some of the alterations he has made. Entire passages are omitted. Moses is not allowed to say, "I'll take my oath of that"; and the "d-d disinheriting countenance" of Sir Oliver is found too strong to be retained. A score similar liberties are taken. In America Mr. Daly may do what he likes with Sheridan. We in England pride ourselves on "a robust and not a valetudinary" morality, and we deem these things inoffensive and are indisposed to part with them. "Wench" in England is a good Saxon word, and we hold up hands of astonishment at finding it inadmissible. We have not yet reached the time when Sheridan has to be treated like Wycherley. In the representation of this sadly emasculated work there was one great impersonation. Mr. W. Farren's Sir Peter, long excellent, was riper than ever, and was absolutely unsurpassable. It is not to be believed that it has ever been surpassed. Miss Rehan's Lady Teazle was buoyant, ultra-vivacious, and unconvincing, but informed with that actress's inspired individuality. The Charles of Mr. Bouchier was picturesque and acceptable; the Joseph of Mr. George Clarke conventional, old-fashioned, and out of the picture. Mr. Lewis was not seen at his best, nor was Mrs. Gilbert. Among the minor characters Sir Oliver Surface alone calls for praise.

Our dramatists tax very slightly their invention in the production of farce, being as a rule in the habit of stealing their pieces ready made. Little ingenuity is, moreover, displayed in the task of fitting French indecorum to English niceness. A *liaison* is converted by most transparent devices into a flirtation; the compromising letters, without which French farce could scarcely subsist, are still produced, and are supposed to have passed, not between a man of the world and a *cocotte*, but between a nuptially disposed young gentleman and his affianced bride.

Such things take in nobody, and may accordingly be dismissed. When, moreover, the worst indecorum and the most pointed satire have been removed, the residuum proves somehow mirthful. 'Mrs. Othello,' as the novelty at Toole's Theatre is called, is a case in point. The original piece, 'Madame Othello,' by MM. Maxime Boucheron and Ernest Morel, produced at the Théâtre Cluny on September 20th, 1890, was one of the most impudently, not to say scandalously comic pieces ever seen. Its heroine, named from her baseless jealousy Madame Othello, meditates against her husband, "Monsieur Desdemona," reprisals of the nature of those in 'Francillon'; and the relations between one of the characters and the wife of a gymnast are unmistakable. When these things are removed, when the seasoning is taken from the dish, it remains appetizing. Flimsy, extravagant, and impossible the whole may be, but it is amusing. To this result the brilliant acting of Miss Fanny Brough largely contributed. Mr. Glenney was the husband.

'Gudgeons' shows no trace of indebtedness to a French original, and belongs, indeed, to comedy rather than farce. It exhibits the manner in which confiding Americans are beguiled by a shrewd, dishonest, and penniless young English couple. The intrigue, though sordid, is clever, the characters are well conceived, and the whole is effective and original. It affords good opportunities to the actors. Mr. Herbert Waring has done nothing so good as folliott Treherne, the hero; and Miss Janette Steer takes as his wife a long step in advance. Mr. Murray Carson, otherwise Mr. Thornton Clark, also gives a clever sketch. Piece and performance repay a visit.

Seldom has work so primitive and insignificant as 'Tom, Dick, and Harry' won so conspicuous a triumph. The piece begins unhappily—with a quarrel between father and son in which not the slightest interest can be felt. Following this comes a species of altercation or bickering between a mawkish matron, "like Niobe all tears," and a giddy-pated maiden all giggle, which, besides being silly and ill conceived, is dispiriting and dull. Not a scintilla of wit is there in the dialogue, not a gleam of possibility in the action, not a sign of observation in the characters. Yet the whole, though unworthy of serious criticism, takes with the public. It does this, it may be said, by mere force of impudence. Granted a world in which all things are topsy-turvy, and comic effects will be likely to arise. Mrs. Pacheco asks her public, however, to believe that there are three men so completely alike that neither wife, sweetheart, father, nor any being in the world can tell one from the other. Quite impossible is it to praise a piece that deals with such absurdities; equally impossible is it wholly to condemn proceedings so amusing to the audience. Mr. Hawtreys, one of the most mirthful of comedians, plays with admirable brightness, and the support afforded him is generally satisfactory.

In 'A Screw Loose' the same atmosphere of absurdity and madness prevails. Silly enough is the action of this piece, yet it is all within the limits of farce. The presentation in a comic aspect of a thing so serious as mental

affliction is certainly not to be encouraged. The whole is lightly treated, however, and as cure is known to be impending it is practically inoffensive. It is amusing also. The spectator may condemn himself for laughing, but laughter is extorted. Mr. Wyatt, Mr. F. Thorne, Mr. Abingdon, Mr. Elwood, and Miss Gertrude Kingston give the trifle brisk interpretation.

Dramatic Gossip.

A NEW comedy by Mr. Henry James will be the next novelty at Daly's Theatre. Mr. James has also written a new play for Mr. Alexander, which will follow the withdrawal of 'The Second Mrs. Tanqueray' next spring at St. James's Theatre.

So ineffective was the delivery and so poor the acting of those taking part in the representation at the Royalty of 'Measure for Measure,' that the whole can only be regarded as amateur work, and is of comparatively little interest. The presentation of what was said to be the stage of the Fortune Theatre, with the gallants in Elizabethan costume smoking their pipes, was agreeable, but of no special significance.

It is dangerous, and perhaps unwarrantable, for the critic to intrude into matters of feminine costume or make up. That ladies possess secrets by which the brunette of yesterday is the blond of to-day and will be the rufous of to-morrow is known. While he may not treat these mysteries without becoming reverence, man may protest when the result, instead of enhancement of beauty, is its impairment. Such is the case with that admirable artist Miss Ada Rehan, whose saffron locks in 'The Orient Express' did something to account for the fact that her performance exercised less than her customary witchery, and with another excellent artist, Miss Gertrude Kingston, whose stammel tresses in 'A Screw Loose' are unbecoming and out of harmony with her face.

MR. E. TERRY and his company, after playing at the Elephant and Castle in 'Sweet Lavender' and in 'The Magistrate,' went on Monday to the Grand Theatre, Islington.

'A VAIN SACRIFICE,' a three-act drama by Mr. Walter E. Grogan, ending in the suicide of the hero, was given on Tuesday afternoon at the Strand. The termination is impressive; but the characterization is weak, the motive for the heroine's action is inadequate, the dialogue is dull, and the whole is flimsy. An admirably tender and beautiful performance of the heroine by Miss Hall Caine should secure that delightful artist a permanent engagement. What are managers about?

We have received a copy of the text of the 'Trinummus' as it is to be played next month at Westminster School. On the opposite page to the Latin is printed Bonnell Thornton's translation in verse.

THE adaptation of the 'Antigone' by M. A. Vacquerie and P. Maurice is to be given at the Comédie Française next Tuesday. After its production the rehearsals of 'Bérénice,' which has not been played at the Comédie since 1844, are to begin.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—W. H. C.—J. E. N.—C. V. C.—C. F. S.—C. E.—W. C.—N. C.—A. C.—J. N. F.—R. O. S.—G. E. E.—N. G.—J. M.—received.

W. P. W.—We cannot undertake to answer such questions.

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